



Jordan Times

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Ports Corporation officials named

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday appointed two representatives of the private sector in the board of directors of the Ports Corporation. The two were Mr. Tawfiq Kawa, head of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association (JSAA), and Mr. Yasser Al Tal, director-general of the Jordan Maritime Lines Company. The Council of Ministers also renewed the membership of Taha Kabriti in the board of the corporation as another private sector representative. Another decision taken by the Cabinet approved the make-up of the Jordanian delegation headed by Minister of Youth Under-Secretary Iman Arida to attend an emergency meeting of the Arab ministers of youth and sports to be held in Cairo next week to discuss the seventh Arab games scheduled to take place in Syria in September.

Fatch council to meet on Friday

TUNIS (R) — The leadership of Fatch, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) mainstream movement, is to meet on Friday to discuss the next steps in peace talks with Israel resuming on Aug. 24, Palestinian sources said on Tuesday. The 104-strong Revolutionary Council meeting is being preceded by meetings in Tunis of the Fatch's Central Council chaired by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat which began late on Monday. The Israeli cabinet meanwhile appointed Itamar Rabinovich, a Tel Aviv University authority on Syria, to head Israel's negotiating team with the Syrians. Mr. Rabinovich is replacing Yossi Ben Aharon, one of the right-wing Likud Party's most hardline members, and he said he hoped to deliver a message that Israel sincerely wants to negotiate a peace treaty with Syria.

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Assad meets Saudi crown prince

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Aziz began talks on Tuesday about bilateral cooperation, Middle East peace and the situation in the Gulf, officials and diplomats said. The prince arrived in Damascus on Monday for meetings with Syrian leaders. Syria and Saudi Arabia took part in the U.S.-led multinational coalition which drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait last year.

Kuwait's 'ex-premier' congratulates Saddam

BAGHDAD (R) — The head of the government installed by Baghdad during its occupation of Kuwait has sent President Saddam Hussein a congratulatory cable marking the second anniversary of the invasion. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the cable was sent by Ali's Hussein Ali, without mentioning his previous post. "On the great day of the call when our sacred land united, from the mountain to the sea, I extend to Your Excellency, in my name and on behalf of all the honest people of our valuable Kuwait, our cordial feelings and appreciation, to you the knight of the nation and the builder of its glory," INA quoted Mr. Ala's as saying.

Kabul truce holds after deadly barrage

KABUL (R) — A ceasefire remained in effect in Kabul Tuesday, after two days of heavy bombardment in which at least 14 people were killed and nearly 100 wounded. The bombardment with rockets and artillery was one of the fiercest since guerrillas took power last April after 14 years of civil war. The Hezb-e-Islami party of radical Mujahideen guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a partner in the Islamic government, admitted it was involved in the bombardment but said it had only returned fire from government forces and militia.

Sudan frees political prisoners

KHARTOUM (AP) — The government has released 60 military officers serving prison terms of 15 years or less for trying to overthrow the regime, an army spokesman said. Major General Mohammad Abdullah Owaida said another 19 officers serving life prison terms for the same charge have had their sentences reduced to 10 years. On July 27, Sudan's military leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir ordered the release of an unspecified number of political prisoners serving prison terms of 15 years or less for trying to overthrow the government. Those serving longer prison terms had then reduced to 10 years. Last week, 54 political prisoners, mostly civilians, were released.

Egypt to supervise Eritrea referendum

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has agreed to participate in supervising a referendum in Eritrea next April to decide whether Eritreans want independence from Ethiopia, Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Tuesday. Mr. Musa spoke to reporters after meeting with Youssef Sayeh, representative of the provisional Eritrean government in Cairo. The ruling Eritrean People's Liberation Front has said that it will seek United Nations supervision of the referendum. But it was not known if he has requested this officially. "Egypt will extend every possible assistance to make the referendum a success."

IRA shoots British soldiers in N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) shot dead a British soldier in an ambush in Northern Ireland on Monday night. Police said the soldier was a member of a joint army and police patrol which came under attack from automatic weapons in a Republican area of Belfast. The IRA, fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, said it carried out the attack. In a separate incident in Pomeroy, County Tyrone, west of Belfast, another soldier suffered slight injuries when an army patrol was ambushed by IRA fighters.

Rifai asserts charges against him fabricated

Ex-premier says 'corruption' probes part of campaign against the regime

By Norraeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — One day after the Lower House of Parliament rejected a motion to indict him on charges of mismanagement of public funds, former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai dismissed as politically motivated the recommendation which was made by the chamber's Investigations Committee.

In an interview with the Jordan Times and a statement he issued to the press Tuesday, Mr. Rifai said the House's panel "behaved like a political lynch mob" who did not only target him personally but also "what I represented politically."

"They (members of the committee) fabricated stories (in an attempt) to shake confidence in the system for political reasons and objectives," he said. "They know that their objectives were political."

The House, after 12 hours of grueling debate this and last Monday, where more than 60 deputies vented their anger over power abuses in previous cabinets, decided not to indict Mr. Rifai and his Finance Minister Hanna Odeh. But they secured the necessary two-thirds majority needed to indict former Public Works Minister Mahmoud Hawamdeh on charges of mismanagement of public funds in a multi-million dollar highway construction contract in 1987.

The Investigations Committee, charged with digging out corruption cases in the pre-democracy era, recommended to the Lower House that the three officials be indicted for squandering public funds and contracting an Indian company at higher prices than those offered by competitors, including another Indian company.

Most deputies attached high hopes on the "corruption case" debate as a way to fulfill promises

they made to their constituents during their campaigns for the 1989 national elections to combat corruption, most Parliament observers maintain.

The elections were called after riots broke out in the south of Jordan in April 1989 over fuel price increases and charges of corrupt practices by the Rifai government. The Rifai cabinet resigned a few days later.

Mr. Rifai, who said he had received a lot of support during the debate over this case, maintained that it was clear from the report submitted by the House panel that "character assassination and defamation of the persons involved was the true objective."

He rejected as untrue that Monday's vote indicted him politically if not legally. He charged that the objectives of those who tried to indict him were to ensure that his political career is finished but "they failed."



Zeid Rifai

"If someone is convicted of a crime it would of course hurt his political career," he said, adding that this did not happen in this case.

Asked whether he would return to public office now that he has come out of a three-year self-imposed silence, Mr. Rifai said: "Official positions don't mean much to me in that they are not the objective but a means of serving my country."

"I differentiate between political work, public office and public life. I am part of public life and will continue to be part of it," he added.

Now that the case is over, at least legally, he said that he is

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Arabiyat describes House's verdict as honourable, historic

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat has described Monday's session of the House as an historic achievement and a source of pride for every Jordanian.

"I don't care who was and who was not indicted. The session was an historic one that transcended tribal sensitivities and egoistic individualism," Dr. Arabiyat told members of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) on Tuesday.

"The session's outcome was honourable," he said. Dr. Arabiyat rejected arguments that the investigation of alleged corruption of government officials is an infringement upon the system, saying that "corruption hides behind authority to protect itself."

"The regime itself provided for mechanisms to investigate corruption. The regime is innocent of all this," he said.

Pointing that Monday's session was the first of its kind in the history of Jordan, Dr. Arabiyat

said that Jordanians were not aware of the constitutional provision for trying government officials. Nor did the government, Parliament and the judicial system know how to handle corruption charges against government officials until the House opened these cases, he said.

Dr. Arabiyat said the judicial system "was stunned" when corruption cases were referred to it by the House.

The Azraq-Jafr road case was the first of four cases returned to the House from the judiciary because they did not fall within its jurisdiction. The other three cases involve alleged mismanagement of public funds in the construction of the Siwaqa Prison and Abu Nusseir Housing Project and the purchase of feed by the Ministry of Supply.

The House's Investigations Committee, which has the legal status of a general prosecutor, looked into the case and decided to indict three former government officials on alleged charges of mismanagement of public funds and referred the case to the House for endorsement. One



Abdul La' Arabiyat

case won the necessary two-thirds majority and was referred to a special committee entrusted with trying former and present members of the cabinet. Two other cases were dismissed for failing to muster the needed votes.

At his two-hour meeting with members of the press, Dr. Arabiyat praised the democratic process in Jordan saying it has "shattered the fragile tribalism," and demonstrated the solidity of institutionalised democracy.

The speaker of the House urged journalists to participate in the debate of the draft law on press and publication which he said would be tackled by the House on Sunday. He also called

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Deputies' voting pattern shows affiliations and electoral designs

By Mariam M. Shakhin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Tuesday's indictment of former Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Hawamdeh on charges of misuse of public funds by 54 members of the Lower House of Parliament and the failure of the House to indict former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai and former Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh on the same charges have come as no great surprise to parliamentary observers.

Compared to previous votes taken in the parliament's extraordinary session the number of deputies in attendance for Tuesday's vote was the largest to date — 71 out of 78. During the final vote on political parties in mid-July only 61 deputies were in attendance.

In voting on the "corruption" case Tuesday, the political groupings in the House held strictly to bloc lines. One observer said the bloc voting was the most disciplined yet in the House. The 22-member Muslim Brotherhood Bloc and the nine-member Democratic Bloc were joined by the six-member Independent Islamist Bloc, three independent Islamists and four traditional pro-establishment deputies in voting in favour of the indictment of the three former government officials.

Although one member of

the independent Islamist Bloc was among the seven absent deputies, the six attending members, like the Muslim Brotherhood and the Democratic Bloc (with only one exception) voted consistently along bloc lines. The centrist and conservative national and Constitution blocs meanwhile showed a lack of cohesion throughout the voting process.

Three members of the 17-member Constitution Bloc, Fawzi Tuemeh, Abdul Rauf Al Rawabdeh and Mohammad Abu Oleim — voted against all three former officials. Only three other members of the bloc, which is officially led by Deputy Prime Minister Tbeonah Hindawi, voted against two of the three charged with financial mismanagement. Mr. Hindawi, who previously served in Mr. Rifai's government, led a group of 14 deputies who voted against all of the investigations Committee's recommendations.

The rest of the Constitution Bloc voted either against the indictment or abstained.

The 16-member National Bloc appeared to be following the same trend. Only Minister of Industry and Trade Abdulhussain Ensur, who promised to fight corruption during his successful campaign for the Lower House in 1989, and former Deputy Prime Minister Salehman Arar (deputy from Maan)

voted consistently for indicting the three former officials.

Dr. Ensur's personal interest in the subject was apparent because he chose to attend Tuesday's session despite the death of his father Monday. Two other deputies from the National Bloc voted against the indictment of Mr. Hawamdeh alone.

Deputies said Tuesday that they believe that deputies who served in the Rifai government naturally found it "very difficult" to vote against Mr. Rifai. "They would be guilty by association then," said one Brotherhood deputy.

But those who served in the governments of Mr. Rifai, who served twice as prime minister both in the early 1970's and the late 1980s, only account for three deputies. The most senior of these officials, Mr. Hindawi served as minister of education and loyally defended Mr. Rifai when he came under attack from members of the House during the 1989 vote-of-confidence session. Mr. Hindawi led the camp of deputies who voted against the indictment of all three former officials.

They were Saad Haddadin, Jamal Haddad, Qaseem Obeidat, Hisham Sbarani, Saad Srou, Abdul Kareem Al Kabarit, Jamal Khreishah, Faisal Al Jazi, Nayef Abu

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House members argue for and against 'corruption' indictment; some see 'vendetta', others invoke 'duty'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following are quotes from speeches delivered by Lower House of Parliament members during Monday's session dedicated to discussing a corruption case involving a multi-million dinar highway construction contract. The session ended with the House referring former Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Hawamdeh to trial for misuse of public funds and rejecting a motion to indict former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai and former Finance Minister Hanna Odeh on the same charges.

Deputy Mansour Murad: "... a group of people was able to build wealth benefiting from the then prevalent martial law that provided the umbrella enabling this group to protect itself at the expense of the constitution and the country's laws and regulations. Therefore with all conscience I appeal to all deputies to be strict and firm in this case and to hold those responsible accountable for their actions which drove the country into the present situation. I particularly call for firmness to be taken against the

senior officials who were instrumental in involving the country in tens of futile projects for which we are now paying a dear price in the form of unemployment and poverty while those responsible for this misery continue to enjoy their life in their palaces, spending the millions they received as commission or bribes..."

Deputy Fawzi Shaker Tuemeh: "I am astonished to hear voices here and there trying to obstruct the House's discussions on one of the cases that is detrimental to the public interest and the Jordanian citizens as well as the constitutional process. I am surprised to see some deputies trying to protect corrupt people under such pretexts by claiming that discussions of this kind could be harmful to national security or to the reputation of Jordan or its regime. I demand the parliamentary investigation committee to speed up work on other cases and to submit its reports about possible corruption."

Deputy Faisal Al Jazi: "... We cannot find one single evidence to indict any one of the persons

involved in this case. I demand that the House stop defaming men who built the country. The false accusations against these men were motivated primarily by the then coincidental devaluation of the dinar and the rise in the exchange rate of U.S. dollar which in turn upset the work of contractors and those who granted the tenders. Indeed I view the committee's report as reflecting personal revenge."

Deputy Saad Haddadin: "Zeid Rifai was not the only prime minister during the long years during which the debts on Jordan were accumulated. I demand that this case be postponed until all the details of the investigations in the other corruption cases are ready so that we avoid a situation in which some people might try to settle personal scores through this House."

Deputy Ali Hawamdeh: "I must be loyal to the voters and those who elected me for Parliament. For this reason, I can only support the committee's report in all its details and I demand that the committee pursue its investigations into all the other cases as

soon as possible because there are other former prime ministers who ought to be referred to the higher council. There should also be evidence of their shortcomings and responsibility for corruption."

Deputy Ahmad Innab: "There is no difference between an error and a crime committed by a minister or a ministry official or between a minister and a prime minister. We should not go far in probing the penal code so as to find differences in crimes committed by ordinary citizens and a minister intentionally or unintentionally. It is enough for the committee to reach a result so that the whole House can support the result simply because the House has entrusted the committee with the task of investigation. Therefore, I suggest probing this case further so that we can be more fair and just in our work. We could also request help from India's parliament because Indians are involved in this case."

Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant: "All of you are responsible for

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Jordan wins tae-kwon-do bronze in Barcelona

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's Ammar Fahd Al Subaishi Tuesday won a bronze medal in a tae-kwon-do championship held in Barcelona on the sidelines of the Olympic Games. Fahd won the bronze in the 76kg-83kg category after defeating an Iranian player 2-2 and losing his second match to an American player 2-3.

Fahd, born in Amman in 1970, carries a black belt and has previously won six medals for Jordan in various international tournaments. Jordan's two other players in the championship, Tawfiq Nuweisir and Firas Al Jayyousi,



Ammar Fahd Al Subaishi

were eliminated in the first round. Tae-kwon-do is for the second time held on the sidelines of the Olympic Games as a demonstrative event. In the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Jordan won two bronze medals.

Israel reports 'infiltration' bid, says three shot dead

TEL AVIV (AP) — Three Arab guerrillas "infiltrated from Jordan" and were killed by Israeli soldiers Tuesday in a firefight that also left two soldiers wounded, the army said.

It was the second alleged infiltration this year along the normally quiet frontier. The sources also warned of a likely increase in raids on Israeli targets by extremists aiming to torpedo the Mideast peace talks, set to resume Aug. 24 in Washington after a nearly four-month break.

The army said a border patrol detected a possible guerrilla infiltration into the occupied West Bank. Around dawn, the guerrillas opened fire at the patrol and in the exchange of fire the three

guerrillas were killed, the army said.

Two Israeli soldiers were wounded, one moderately and one lightly, and were evacuated to a hospital, the army said.

The military did not say which Arab faction was responsible for the infiltration. Army radio reported the three were khaki uniforms and had beards, saying this was a sign they were Islamic fundamentalists.

The firefight occurred about seven kilometers southwest of the Israeli settlement of Meholah along the banks of the Jordan River.

In Amman, military officials

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Russian to head new U.N. team to Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Members of a U.N. weapons inspection team is heading to Bahrain and Baghdad for a fresh investigation of Iraqi facilities, a U.N. source said.

The team, headed by a Russian expert, was expected to arrive in the Iraqi capital on Friday.

It is believed to include experts in various fields, capable of inspecting different kinds of weapons facilities.

The standoff ended after the United States and other members of the Gulf war alliance threatened to use force and U.N. officials agreed that one of the team sent into the ministry to hunt for weapons-related materials would be nationals of countries which had fought against Iraq.

U.N. officials said they suspected contraband had been removed during the standoff. Under an April 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolution, Iraq is obliged to grant unimpeded access to U.N. experts charged with

finding and destroying its nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic missile stocks and facilities. Niuta Smidovich, a Russian and veteran of European disarmament talks, will lead now the 22-member team.

A spokeswoman, Agnes Marcillou, acknowledged that "various factors, including nationality," go into the selection of team leaders.

The latest team is expected to focus on rooting out the remnants of Iraq's Scud missile arsenal. Iraq is still suspected of hiding scores of the Soviet-designed Scuds.

Mr. Smidovich has recently been serving as spokesman for Rolf Ekeus, the executive chairman of the special commission on destroying Iraqi weapons.

Kuwaiti exercises

The U.S. military landed 1,900 marines Tuesday in an amphibious exercise billed as a training mission but signalling to Iraq that U.N. ceasefire conditions are backed by force.

The soldiers came ashore in armoured vehicles or from landing craft and flat-bottomed hovering craft that lumbered

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UNICEF says international work in Iraq is crippled

BAGHDAD (R) — The largest U.N. aid agency in Iraq says visas and travel permit problems are crippling work of its international staff since a pact with the government expired five weeks ago.

Ezio Murzi, head of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Iraq, told Reuters in an interview that harassment of staff in Baghdad had dramatically increased in recent days and the situation was tense.

A man with a handgun shot at a U.N. guard in front of a Baghdad hotel where U.N. personnel live on Sunday in the latest of a string of problems faced by staff of the world body.

The United Nations complained to authorities. Iraqi officials say such incidents are the work of individuals angered by the U.N. presence in Iraq 18 months after the Gulf war.

Mr. Murzi said U.N. staff were intimidated in Baghdad and agencies last month received Iraqi security men to protect them. "The security situation is tense. There was a trend (of harassment) downwards but I understand there is an equally dramatic trend upwards in the last few days in Baghdad."

Mr. Murzi said U.N. personnel were jeered, shoved and spat on, their vehicles were daubed with paint and some restaurants put soap in their food or refused to serve them.

He said "bad feelings" had surfaced among some Iraqis despite an agreement for U.N. arms inspectors to search the Ministry of Agriculture last Tuesday after a three-week standoff.

"The will of the government however is it wants to control the

situation... its response was very prompt," he added.

Mr. Murzi said "a major crunch" in obtaining visas for international U.N. staff started in April.

Some were renewed but only until the end of June, when an agreement over 500 U.N. guards and 600 aid workers expired.

Iraq and the United Nations have been discussing renewing the agreement to allow the guards and U.N. aid workers to be stationed in Iraq.

"We have a problem fielding a sufficient number of staff," said Mr. Murzi, adding that visas for many non-governmental organisations, such as the Save the Children Fund and Oxfam which left Iraq last month, were also not renewed.

The number of U.N. guards, who arrived in April last year to protect U.N. offices and escort convoys, has dwindled from 500 in April to 220. One hundred left the country on Sunday.

"The government's interest was very explicit: To reduce the number of international staff," said Mr. Murzi, an Italian.

A senior U.N. envoy left Baghdad on Sunday after talks on renewing the pact covering the eight U.N. agencies in Iraq including the World Health Organisation and World Food Programme.

"Our staff are in a sense illegal although no action is taken (against them). Some are without visas," Mr. Murzi said. But there were some openings — three visas were renewed on Sunday. He said the problem covered staff across Iraq, including rebel-held northern areas and the

sonth, where government forces are fighting rebels in marshes southeast of the town of Amara.

UNICEF shut down its Amara office last month as visas were not renewed and was asked by the government to close its office in the city of Basra, where the agency has a large water and sanitation project.

In addition to the visa shortage, no permits for international staff to travel around Iraq have been issued since July 1, Mr. Murzi said. Iraqi staff could still move but suffered from the lack of support.

"We are totally crippled now. We cannot visit our projects... for instance we have not yet found a solution to how a coldbox of vaccines can cross this line (dividing government-controlled from rebel areas) in the north," Mr. Murzi said.

Present U.N. staff numbers were not available but UNICEF had 35 international staff and 76 local staff in Iraq on July 6.

Mr. Murzi said U.N. agencies were negotiating piecemeal agreements with authorities over their relief operations.

"The government wishes to have some sort of cooperation... Iraq has enormous needs but the (post-Gulf war) emergency is no longer there. There is however a relief operation that might last for years," he said.

Iraqis still suffer from diseases fostered by Gulf war destruction and malnutrition. A mild epidemic of 7,000 cases of measles broke out in March and there are large numbers of cases of cholera, diphtheria, malaria and diarrhoea," Mr. Murzi added.

Study warns of weapons build up in Iran, Syria

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Iran and Syria have become independent producers of chemical weapons and Iran likely will have nuclear capability before the end of the century, said a report released Monday by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre.

The report said about 300 Western companies sold supplies and technology that helped both countries build chemical weapons and ballistic missiles, and contributed to Iran's nuclear programme.

"The (Western) nations are repeating exactly the same mistake they did with Saddam Hussein and the reason is an old word called greed," Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the centre, said during a news conference.

The centre is an institute dedicated to the study of the Holocaust and Middle East issues.

The report warned that as Western nations crack down on the illegal sales of weapons technology, and the legal sale of peaceful technologies converted to military purposes, China, North Korea, India and Pakistan appear to be picking up the slack.

The 100-page report, prepared for the centre by the Paris-based Middle East Defence News, said its findings were based on published articles and interviews with senior intelligence analysts in the United States, France, Britain, Germany and Israel.

The study said that Libya also has spent billions of dollars in an attempt to acquire chemical and nuclear weapons production capability, but has been far less successful because of mismanagement and lack of scientific expertise.

The report concludes that Syria and Iran rapidly are developing the ability to independently produce ballistic missiles, and Iran will begin manufacturing missiles, capable of striking Israel and Saudi Arabia by the end of the year.

Unless Western nations halt the flow of technology, Iran probably will produce a nuclear bomb within five or six years, the report said.

Researcher Kenneth Timmerman, who authored the report, said an Iranian bomb could come sooner if Iran obtains technology and assistance from Central Asian countries formerly a part of the Soviet Union.

The report contends that Iran has built 10 nuclear weapons research and development plants during the past decade, including two facilities in and around Tehran that purportedly serve civilian education and research functions.

Mr. Timmerman said Iran denies it has a nuclear weapons programme.

Western assistance to Iran, Syria and Libya primarily has come through the legal sale of dual-use technology and supplies, such as advanced computers and chemicals used in the manufacture of chemical weapons, the report said.

The report identified about 300 Western companies that have made such sales to one or more of the three nations, including 100 German firms.

However, during the news conference Mr. Timmerman praised the German government for enacting strict controls that have reduced sales of materials and technology that can be converted to weapons manufacturing.

The official Libyan news agency JANA, monitored in Cairo, on Monday denied that Libya will shortly be able to manufacture atom bombs and chemical and ballistic missiles.

Israel might hit Iran nuclear sites — paper

NICOSIA (R) — Iran should be ready to retaliate in case Israel is tempted to attack one of its nuclear sites, the Tehran Times said on Monday.

The pro-government paper accused the United States of a "propaganda plot," spreading reports about Iran's alleged quest for nuclear weapons.

Iran has repeatedly denied that it is seeking to develop or acquire nuclear weapons but insists on the right to have nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

The Tehran Times said the campaign had various aims: Scaring Iran's Arab neighbours into the arms of the West, justifying Israel's widely believed possession of nuclear weapons, and blocking cooperation between Iran and ex-Soviet republics with nuclear capabilities.

"And to complete the propaganda plot, there is the possibility that Israel might be tempted to engage in military adventurism against Iran, similar to the operation in undertone against Iraq in the early 1980s," it said, referring to the Israeli air attack on an Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981.

The daily stressed Iran should be ready to retaliate properly "if the Zionist regime were to make such a blunder," the Iranian news agency IRNA said.

Iran's only major nuclear power plant, a German-built installation at Bushehr, was mothballed soon after the 1979 Islamic revolution and attacked by Iraqi warplanes several times during the eight-year Iraq-Iran war.

The plant never became operational and no nuclear material was installed there although Iran has an undisclosed number of smaller research reactors.

Asked to comment on reports that Western intelligence estimated Iran could test its own nuclear warheads by the end of the decade, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was quoted as saying in the German daily Frankfurter Allgemeine on Friday:

"I categorically reject the allegation that Iran is developing nuclear weapons."

German electronics group Siemens A.G. said on Monday it would not complete construction of the Bushehr plant, despite strong requests by Tehran.

A spokesman at Siemens told Reuters on enquiry that it became impossible to complete the plant in Bushehr as the Bonn government would not permit the export of certain crucial components such as a centrifuge, for a reactor.

A spokesman at the economics ministry confirmed that the Ger-

man government had made a final decision not to allow Siemens to export components for the nuclear plant.

The Siemens spokesman said there were no radioactive materials at the Bushehr site.

Iran has said it invested about 5.5 billion marks (\$3.73 billion) in the plant, which Siemens' energy subsidiary KWU started to build in 1975.

The project was interrupted following the Iranian revolution in 1979 and the Iran-Iraq war in 1980s.

Only about 80 per cent of one reactor and about 60 per cent of the second reactor are completed so far.

Iranian officials have come under fire for making a deal with Siemens to build a power plant while the Bushehr station stands as an "unfinished monument."

A letter of understanding for a 1,400-megawatt gas-fired plant to be built at Iran's free trade zone at Qeshm Island at the entrance to the Gulf was signed in Tehran on Sunday.

The project, expected to begin in the last quarter of 1992, would be built in four stages. Siemens would invest 500 million marks (\$340 million) in the first stage.

"These contracts are concluded at a time that the popular protest against Siemens has not stopped yet... the act of the authorities of the Qeshm free-trade zone should in fact be considered as a kind of mocking the people," Abrar daily said on Monday in a commentary quoted by Iran's IRNA news agency.

Qeshm Free Authority (QFA) officials could not be reached for comment.

Work at Bushehr was interrupted after the Islamic revolution in 1979 when Iran's new leaders scrapped the late Shah's ambitious nuclear power programme.

The deputy director of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, Mansour Haji Azim, criticised Germany and Siemens for leaving the Bushehr plant as an "unfinished monument," IRNA said.

Jomhuri Eslami newspaper, which on Sunday urged the government to put Germany on Iran's commercial "black list," accused Siemens of breaching its contract.

Siemens Deputy Chairman Heinrich Von Pierer, in an interview with IRNA, said the "regretful" story which has embarrassed not only Iranians but also Siemens employees, "but it should not be an obstacle to other business relations."

Iran orders French diggers from Hammurabi code site

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has ended a French archaeological concession on an ancient fortress where the code of Hammurabi was found in 1901, Iran's news agency said Tuesday.

The Iranians ordered French excavators to return home within a week from the site associated with the oldest known code of laws, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said. It gave no specific reason for why the expulsion was ordered now, although the concession was supposed to have ended 13 years ago.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Iran's Cultural Heritage Organisation had taken over the fortress in the town of Shush, described by IRNA as the world's "seventh most important historical site."

Susa, or present-day Shush, was the capital of the kingdom of Elam, which flourished in the 12th and 13th centuries B.C.

After conquering Babylon, the

Elamites took the Hammurabi code of laws inscribed on a diorite column.

Hammurabi, king of Babylon in the early 18th century B.C., extended his empire over Mesopotamia, built canals and granaries and compiled what historians believe was the first code of laws.

Composed of 3,600 lines of cuneiform script, it outlines Babylon's social structure and economic conditions. The column was carried to France and placed in the Louvre.

"From now on, all excavations are to be carried out by Iranian archaeologists," IRNA said. It added that the French team working at the site had been given one week to transfer equipment from Shush to France.

IRNA said the French were given a formal concession for excavations on the site in 1911. That was cancelled after the 1979 Iranian revolution, but the French had stayed.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Tunisia trial adjourned to hear arguments

TUNIS (R) — The military trials of 279 alleged Tunisian Muslim radicals were adjourned for several days on Monday after defence lawyers were given permission to examine prosecution documents relating to the case. Defence lawyers had threatened to boycott the trials unless they were allowed to see the documents and given more time to prepare their cases, said Abdul Wahab Behi, head of the Tunisian Bar Association. The alleged radicals, many facing the death penalty, are charged with either plotting to assassinate President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali or to overthrow his government as part of a plan to turn Tunisia into an Islamic state. It was not clear whether the lawyers would be given access to all the papers they were demanding to see. "This is the last postponement," the Behi Kedous, chairman of the court, told the lawyers. The hearings have been postponed twice since the July 9 opening. Mr. Behi told reporters the documents included records of medical examinations carried out on several of those accused who complained of ill-treatment after their arrests. The defendants are all alleged members of the banned Islamic fundamentalist movement, Al Nahdha (renaissance). The hearing against 171 of the defendants is expected to resume on Aug. 7, with a second hearing against the remaining 198 reopening three days later.

Peres accepts vatican invitation

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has accepted an invitation to visit the Vatican to discuss proposals for diplomatic ties between Israel and the papacy, an Israeli official said Monday. The official said no date had been set, but he believed there would be an exchange of visits in the coming months.

14 killed in Kurdish-related violence

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Twelve rebels Kurds and two Turkish soldiers were killed in separate incidents in southeastern Turkey, officials said on Monday. Six members of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) and a soldier were killed in a clash on Saturday night near Karliova town of the eastern Bingol province, they said. Troops were searching the area for other guerrillas. In a separate incident near the eastern town of Varto, five PKK members were killed by Turkish troops and four others surrendered on Sunday. Officials said one soldier died in the clash. Security forces arrested three PKK members near Mers town on Sunday after a shoot-out in which one guerrilla died when a hand grenade he was carrying exploded, officials added. More than 4,300 people have been killed since 1984 when the PKK launched its violent campaign of independence for Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurds.

Thousands of Moroccans stranded

ALGECIRAS, Spain (AP) — Authorities began distributing food and water Monday to tens of thousands of Moroccans whose holiday plans have been seriously disrupted because of overcrowding and inadequate ferry services from this port. An estimated 25,000 vehicles, carrying some 50,000 Moroccans, have arrived in the port area since last Friday to await ferries across the Strait of Gibraltar, said Evelio Jimenez, a spokesman for the body coordinating the operation. Ten car parks were set aside to cope with the massive influx of travellers. Mr. Jimenez said. Most of the Moroccans reside in France, Belgium and elsewhere in Europe and were heading home for August vacations. Mr. Jimenez said that the main problem was that the port's 10 ferry boats, each making several round trips per day, were not enough to cope with the sudden arrival of so many people and cars. Up to 10,000 vehicles were ferried across the Strait of Gibraltar between Friday and midnight Sunday. The crossing takes between two and two-and-a-half hours. Some 200 Moroccans blocked traffic on the road between the town of San Pedro de Alcantara and Algeciras after police diverted 2,500 vehicles to prevent them from reaching the port. No arrests were reported.

Relief group says member shot in north Iraq

BRUSSELS (R) — An International medical relief group said on Monday one of its workers had been shot and seriously wounded in northern Iraq. Medecins sans Frontieres said in a statement released in Brussels that the driver of one of its clearly-marked vehicles had been shot in the arm and stomach on Sunday by two men in a minibus. It said the worker had been passing the village of Agra, on the road between Dohuk and Sulaymanli, when he was shot. "This attack follows others on humanitarian organisations and members of the United Nations in northern Iraq — attacks which have multiplied in the last few weeks and which have threatened work of these organisations," the statement said. Medecins sans Frontieres has five volunteers still working in northern Iraq. It closed its Baghdad office in June and has still not received fresh visas for other workers to go to Iraq.

Bulgarian ship stopped at Dardanelles Strait

ISTANBUL (R) — A Bulgarian vessel has been stopped at the Dardanelles Strait by Turkish coast guard pending an investigation of smuggling charges, the ship's agent said. He said the 9,448 gross-tonne Stanko Staikov, forced to drop anchor near Canakkale on the strait late on Sunday, was coming from Limassol, Cyprus, and was headed for a Bulgarian port after leaving containers in Istanbul. The agent said he did not know the smuggling charges. The semi-official Anatolia agency reported that the state security court at the Aegean port city of Izmir had requested the seizure and the captain would be questioned. The vessel is one of five Bulgarian vessels which regularly ply the Eastern Mediterranean to the Black Sea.

Defendant escapes in lawyer's gown

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian facing trial for bouncing a cheque escaped from a courthouse cage in his lawyer's robe while court was in session, a newspaper reported on Tuesday. The mass-circulation Al Akhbar newspaper said the lawyer passed his client the robe in a file after convincing the guard he was a trainee lawyer. The guard opened the door and both defendant and lawyer walked out of court in the Nile Valley town of Oussema while judges debated other cases. The newspaper did not report when the incident happened but said both men were caught a few days later.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 72111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

12:00 Olympics
12:30 Le Monde est a vous
13:00 News in French
13:15 Documentary
13:30 News in Hebrew
13:45 News in Arabic
14:00 Saved by the Bell
14:15 Wednesday forum
14:30 News in English
14:45 Olympics
15:00 A Perfect Hero
15:15 Olympics

PRAYER TIMES

04:21 Fajr
05:45 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:42 Dhuhr
16:22 Asr
19:35 Maghrib
21:42 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switish, Tel. 510740
"Assumption" of God Church, Tel. 62785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 64590
Church of the Assumption Tel. 67440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Assumption Tel. 623561

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 683326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

Min./Max. temp. 16 / 32

Amman 24 / 39

Amman 14 / 35

Jordan Valley 21 / 38

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 31, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 29 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al Sharrah 638778
Dr. Basma Karadab 782020
Dr. Kayad Halayeh 793522
Dr. Saad Abu Hatab 649846
First pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 718356
Al Asma pharmacy 637035
Nairouth pharmacy 625672
Al Salem pharmacy 636790
Al Salem pharmacy 644945
Simciani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Al Qanu (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy (27825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ziad Ja'atim (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 965417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 617777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 804342
Traffic Police 806390
Public Security Department 60321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661776
Water and Sewerage 897457
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010200
Reprints 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

Electric Power Corporation 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53203
Qweia Alia Ind. Airport 08-53200
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813613/32
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn 6428106
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn 6424102
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malham, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 6641714
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 643945
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66512737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Jalal, Al-Muasher 7771012
Al-Basir, J. Amman 77311126
Army, Marja 89161175
Qweia Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674153
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sun Hospital (09)986732
Al Hima Modern Hospital (09)989990

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information Department of the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

18:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
18:00 Jeddah (RJ)
18:10 Larissa (RJ)
18:30 Damascus (RJ)
18:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:35 London (RJ)
17:05 Cairo (RJ)
17:55 Frankfurt (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:25 Istanbul (RJ)
18:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
18:40 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:45 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:40 Karachi (PI)
11:30 Jeddah (SU)
11:30 Sana (TY)
12:25 Sharjah, Abu Dhabi (GF)
12:30 Cairo (MS)
12:40 Paris, Damascus (AF)
12:45 Damascus (PI)
12:45 Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:25 Damascus (RJ)
11:00 Rome (PI)
11:35 Berlin, London (RJ)
11:50 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:40 Cairo (RJ)
12:45 Istanbul (RJ)
13:00 Colombo (RJ)
13:05 Riyadh (RJ)
13:10 Dhahran (RJ)
13:15 New Delhi (RJ)
13:20 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Delhi (RJ)
23:45 Sana (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:40 Damascus (PI)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
12:30 Sana (TY)
12:40 Jeddah (SU)
14:15 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Beirut (GF)
21:35 Karachi (PI)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower prices in Jds per kg.

Apple (red) 550 / 300
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Mishman) 550 / 500
Beet 350 / 300
Cabbage 90 / 50
Carrot 240 / 200
Cauliflower 260 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 120 / 80
Cucumbers (small) 210 / 150
Eggplant 140 / 30
Garlic 550 / 450
Lemon 720 / 620
Mango (large) 150 / 100
Mango (small) 300 / 250
Melon (dry) 150 / 100
Onion (green) 150 / 100
Oranges 450 / 400
Peaches 550 / 500
Pears 360 / 300
Pepper (hot) 160 / 120
Pepper (sweet) 200 / 150
Potato 180 / 120
Sweet Melon 200 / 150
Tomato 70 / 40
Watermelon 70 / 40

Deputies argue for and against indictment

(Continued from page 1)

your community. I call on you the media of this country to seek truth in the coverage of this just case as much as you are careful to be fair and true in covering soccer games or the Jerash festivals. I urge the media in this country to respond favourably to the desires of the Jordanian people and their representatives in Parliament lest the media be deterred and forced to become obedient."

Deputy Saleem Ghawet: "I demand that the parliamentary committee revise its report and finalise its investigations because I believe that there are many ambiguous aspects which require clarification in this case. We must be objective and unbiased in taking any decision and in order to attain the aspired goal which is namely to end corruption and restore justice."

Deputy Ibrahim Ibrahim Khaleel: "I support the view of a colleague who suggested that voting should be given names. I demand that the committee pursue its work, research and investigation into the rest of the corruption cases. We want all those who tamper with the national interests to be flushed out and held accountable for their misdeeds."

Deputy Mohammad Addeeb Al Zahedi: "What was the view of the Lower House of Parliament at the time the tender was given in 1986 and what were the attitudes of deputies - Laith Shbeilat and Abdullah Akaleh, who were members of the house at the time? What was the view of the Audit Bureau when the cabinet decision was taken?"

Deputy Mohammad Ahmad Al Haj: "Our people today are celebrating and are overjoyed, although this is not shared by our information services and media, accustomed to belittling such events. The media and the information services did not even mention this historic day. Our people's desire in this case is quite clear because it emanates from their pain and bitterness and the long years of injustice, they suffered from vampires who stole their food. The people of Jordan are awaiting the resolutions and the decisions. They also wait to hear about the accused men's deposits and the trips they make to Europe while people suffer from the lack of proper documents and the evidence with which to indict these men."

Deputy Hassan Saad: "This case revolves around wasting JD 50 million on a futile project. The loss came when Prime Minister Zeid Rifai and his ministers decided to override the views and advice of experts, logic and national interest. They considered themselves senior to the rest of the people. Their crime should be considered more despicable than those committed by ordinary people jailed for stealing tens of dinars. A number of suspect people have been in contact with a large number of deputies exercising pressure on them to change their positions vis-a-vis this case. I consider this group as accomplices in the corruption cases and associates in covering up corruption. To say that the executive authority was merely exercising its duty after winning the support of the people is wrong simply because the people have withdrawn their confidence in this executive authority which was then responsible for government. The lack of confidence was manifested in the April upheaval and the popular pressure that brought about the decision for the general elections. What the people had said was the loudest voice of accusation against those responsible for the government at the time. This case is for the hungry people who are overburdened with debts... people who have lost half the value of the dinar and lost half of the country's wealth."

Deputy Dawood Kajak: "Admission that many faults and errors were committed in different projects more serious than those committed in the Al Jafr Al Azraq Road Project does not mean that Parliament will not hold all those responsible for other faults. One can not expect Parliament to deal with all the blunders and errors at one go. Do we have to level accusations at different people simultaneously so that the judge can deal with the cases in court? By linking the wrongdoing with the whole cabinet and by not holding the prime minister responsible is an attempt at diluting the case. We have to realise that any council of ministers bears the full responsibility for any fault. Also, if we examined the climate in which the council of ministers had taken the decision, we could easily realise the responsibility of the minister in collusion with his prime minister. I must point out that involvement of the present or former cabinets in the road through the Indian company does not absolve those committing the faults at the start of the whole episode. Any cabinet should be held to account for its deeds should evidence become avail-

able. A claim that the use of cement produced in Jordan was better for national interests than asphalt pavement, is not acceptable because the government has the power to support the cement factory through other means if needed."

Deputy Kamel Omar: "The head of the committee's statement and presentation of the report claiming that the accused officials were only acting within the authorities granted them can only encourage others to commit other offences. Authority given to the government official should not prompt him to abuse public funds or accept or refuse bids by any company in accordance with his whims and desires without any consideration to the views of others."

Deputy Mohammad Dardeer: "I believe that those responsible for the decisions in this case were the former Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh and former Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh and not the former prime minister who only signed and approved what has been presented to him from the concerned ministers. If any body is to be referred to trial it should not be Zeid Rifai alone but all the cabinet members as they too had signed the decision to deal with the Indian company."

Deputies Awad Al Bashir, Mohammad Alawneh, Atef Bataineh and Mahmoud Hwehel: "It is noticeable that this report faces two trends: A trend on the part of the majority of the committee members who are for levelling accusations at those responsible for their abuse of authority and wasting public funds; and a trend in the views of Hussein Mijalli, head of the law committee who held that those accused in this case did exceed the authorities entrusted to them. In order to reach an acceptable conviction for our conscience we are in need of information and evidence proving or denying waste of public funds resulting from abuse of authority. The required information in this case can be summed in the following: — We need to examine the set of specifications for the tender in question. — We need to have a specific report describing the present condition of the road in question. — We need a report giving details on the construction and maintenance of the road providing preference of cement paved roads to asphalt paved roads and vice versa. — We need a report on the amount of money spent in Jordan as a result of implementing that particular project to be compared with funds that could have been spent on the same project with the road paved with asphalt. — We need to have reports about tax exemptions for this project to be compared with similar projects by other governments. We demand to know from the August committee why an accusation appears on page nine about exempting the company from paying 30 per cent income tax and while we see no mention of exempting the same company later from income tax at the rate of 100 per cent."

We need a report determining the reliability of the road that could be a military airport, taking into consideration the testimony of a representative of the member of the Jordanian Royal Airforce Team.

We ask that the House put off any decision in this case until the remaining data has to be gathered. Deputy Deeb Marji: "We are facing one case that has been finalised by the parliamentary committee but it should be noted that a parliamentary report issued in March 1990 had included tens of cases. In this context, I can find no acceptable excuse for the committee not following up on the other cases of corruption or abuse of authority. I do not support a school of selectivity and hope that the case is not meant as against particular personalities or groups. I refer in particular to the discrepancy in the procedure of granting the tender within the conditions and terms. What drew my attention to the case was the contradictory situation between the first negotiating team and the second one, and the prime minister's approval of the tender on the one hand and later the contents of a letter addressed by the Minister of Public Works to his under secretary requesting him to implement the project. I believe all those involved should bear the consequences."

Deputy Abdul Aziz Jaher: "The committee's report has noted that the Ministry of Public Works had enlisted the advice of an engineering consultancy office and that the ministry paid that office a large sum of money for its advice. The ministry later ignored that advice which would have saved us up to JD20 million. The Minister of Public Works at the time concealed the facts about the tender and I wonder what was the minister's interest in such action... knowing that the concerned com-

pany was Indian. Failure to expand the investigations and the accusations in other corruption cases can only be called negligence on the part of this House."

Deputy Fakhri Kawa: "Don't you agree with me that the case in question is of little importance if compared with the magnitude of the accumulated corruption in the country? Don't you see that talk about tens of millions of dinars is kind of minimising the country's debts which amount to 11 billion? Don't you agree with me that Zeid Rifai was not the only person who ruined the world, but that there are others who preceded or succeeded him in such practice? It should be noted that the corruption rings in administration and finance are intertwined?"

I refer to article 11 of the report which said that the contract with the Indian company provided for additional unusual conditions which constituted misuse of public funds, costing the country heavy financial burdens including exempting the Indian company from paying income tax at the rate of 30 per cent. This means that the parliamentary committee has found that this has caused damage to public funds. I believe that the House members should support the committee's report but I warn the House that short of two thirds majority in support of the report means acquitting the accused and failure to indict those responsible which means failure of deputies in their work."

Deputy Issa Al Abed Al Rimouni questioned the timing of corruption case when Jordan is being subjected to brutal campaigns and when efforts for peace are under way. "Why is the focus now on corruption at a time when brutal campaigns against Jordan are being escalated, when efforts to establish peace are under way, when Iraqi children are starving to death, when Aqaba port is being that besieged by the American navy, let alone the rising unemployment and rocketing prices."

He voiced fear that the House would not record a corruption case today, as the foreign media said, but rather a massacre of right and justice which diverts attention away from more important issues. I am afraid that we are offering the innocent people as scapegoats on the altar of lust and outbidding. I know for sure that some of the people who adopt hard positions against this case are under threat from parties, which mobilised all their efforts to project the rejection of justice as encouragement of corruption" Mr. Rimouni said.

He said he was not convinced with the proceedings, nor with the information contained in the report, and therefore totally rejected the committee's recommendations.

Deputy Issa Mianat: I feel that there are people trying to intimidate the House into changing its principled stand on those who abused their authority and misused public funds. It is not true that the executive authority at the time had enjoyed confidence. The King decided to remove it from office, responding favourably to the people's desire. The parliamentary committee, acting as a public prosecutor, is not authorised to evaluate the evidence to reach a conclusion if a crime has been committed. The committee is only entrusted to detect evidence that can warrant a trial. Zeid Rifai did not appeal before the committee as a defendant and this is a major shortcoming in the investigation. The defendant has to attend in accordance with articles 63, 118 and 119 of the criminal code. I therefore support the proposal of addressing this shortcoming.

Deputy Hameed Mansour criticised the local media for ignoring the subject despite its importance. "Before voicing my opinion in the parliamentary investigations committee report, I am putting blame on the media for ignoring the subject of today's session, despite its significance. This subject was debated last week but pursued only today. It was given special importance, as was evident from the cable sent by the Parliament's secretariat to this session. Yet, the media was either marginalized or left aside on purpose. He added that mass media belongs to the people and as such, should reflect the pulses of the people and the Lower House of Parliament. Otherwise, question marks will be put on every practice which is not consistent with the spirit of the people and their concern," he said.

"The national and personal interests for those involved in this case make it incumbent on them, not the House to request court appearances so that they will not be accused by public opinion."

Committee recommends full-time doctors at colleges and schools to ease physician unemployment

AMMAN (Petra) — A committee entrusted with following up unemployment of doctors called Tuesday for finding jobs for those who have graduated several years ago to bring to an end the difficult conditions they are facing.

In a memorandum sent by the committee to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the committee asked for conducting a study on the Ministry of Health's needs of doctors, especially in primary health care and school medicine fields.

The committee called on the prime minister to take proper measures to commit schools and community colleges around the Kingdom to employ full-time doctors in implementation of previous decisions. The committee said that student gatherings need special medical care and stressed the importance of enacting a comprehensive health insurance scheme in Jordan as soon as possible.

The committee, which is affiliated with the General Practitioner Society, called for offering suitable incentives for doctors to open their own health clinics in rural areas. To reach this end, the committee proposed securing a suitable place for each clinic and offering doctors limited financial support, particularly during the first two years.

It urged establishing cooperation ties between the ministry and municipal and rural councils to contribute to medical efforts in this regard.

The committee also called for cooperation between the Civil Service Commission, the Jordan Medical Association and the Ministry of Health in order to find new and just regulations for appointing doctors, taking into consideration the process the various medical specialisations, years of experience and the year of graduation.

Committee to uplift Dana reviews project proposals

AMMAN (Petra) — A community-based committee in charge of developing Dana Wildlife Reserve in Tafleeh Governorate Tuesday reviewed recommendations and proposals made by the higher committee to undertake comprehensive studies on reserve projects.

A meeting chaired by Tafleeh Governor Khalid Al Bawaliz, who heads the community-based committee, stressed the need for constructing agricultural roads, asphalted the road leading to the tourist camp, developing infras-

tructure and issuing tourism-promotion material.

He also called for holding training courses for tourist guides in the area, in cooperation with the Vocational Training Corporation. He emphasised the need for maintaining and developing Dana springs and protecting them from pollution.

He added that the establishment of production cooperatives and setting up small scale income generating projects would contribute to developing this area.

Camp expatriate youths explore Mutah University

MUTAH (Petra) — Participants in the sixth National Youth Camp for Jordanian Expatriates in Ajloun, visited Tuesday Mutah University where they were briefed by the university's assistant president Khalid Al Karaki on its objectives and aspirations as an independent higher education institution. He said that the university supplies the armed forces with highly trained and qualified military cadres, in addition to its contribution to broadening the base of higher education for civil students.

Ministry for giving the Jordanian youth abroad the chance to look at the cultural, scientific and archaeological sites in their country. He also thanked participants at the gathering for helping to develop the youth movement in Jordan and called on them to contribute to the advancement of scientific institutions by presenting their constructive ideas and suggestions on how best to make such institutions more active.

After the briefing, participants toured the various facilities of the university.

Amman mayor demands clean up construction sites

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Mohammad Bashir Issa on Tuesday instructed the municipality's departments to ask owners of buildings under construction to remove all remains dumped in or around plots of land adjacent to the newly-constructed sites.

pavements or streets adjacent to them are cleared from soil and materials and until any damage caused to streets or pavements is repaired.

The mayor called on directors of Amman municipal zones to set aside special places for dumping remains and for fixing those places on the construction licences so that owners are forced to dump soil and remains properly.

University educational management head elected to international council

AMMAN (Petra) — The Head of the educational management department at the University of Jordan, Kamal Duwaini, has been elected member of the Administrative Committee of the International Council of Education. Dr. Duwaini has just come back from Paris, where he attended the meetings of the international conference on education. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Du-

wani said representatives of 50 countries took part in the five day conference which discussed methods of training and preparing teachers to cope with the requirements of a changing world. He pointed out that the conference discussed educational systems, teacher training, effects of science and technology on educational expression, and international cooperation in the area of developing teachers.

Fresh milk instead of powder urged

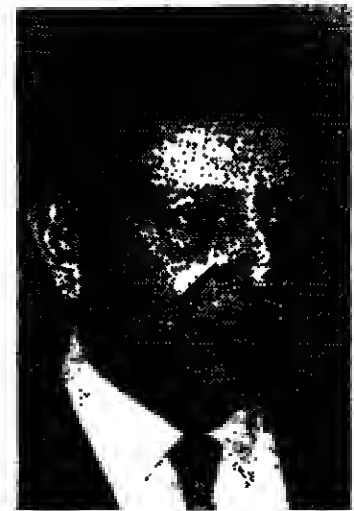
ZARQA (Petra) — President of the Cow-Breeders Society in Zarqa governorate Mohammad Al Hammouri Tuesday called for committing dairy products factories in the Kingdom to using fresh milk instead of powdered milk. Mr. Hammouri said the society produces daily about 85 tonnes of fresh milk. He said this amount equals about 70 per cent of the dairy factories' needs. The society has for long suffered from marketing problems.

5th Royal Army tug-of-war champions

AMMAN (Petra) — The Fifth Royal Armoured Division won the Armed Forces tug-of-war championship Tuesday against the 12th Royal Mechanised Division, the Third Royal Armoured Division, the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division and the Royal Jordanian Air Force. Games were held at Hussein Youth City playgrounds. Ranking second in the championship was the 12th Royal Mechanised Division. Commander of the 5th royal Armoured Division presented the championship prizes to the winners.

Budget circular stresses public and private sector thrift for fiscal 1993

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday announced instructions to be followed by the various government departments in their preparation for the 1993 fiscal budget.



Sharif Zeid

All government departments have to abide by the following instructions in preparing their 1993 fiscal budgets and the lists for their employees' expenditures and needs, according to a circular issued by the prime minister's office.

The circular called for the following points to be observed in the process of these preparations: — Salaries, wages and allowances should reflect those that are actually paid to employees in 1992.

— Government offices should not request any new jobs for 1993 unless they were absolutely necessary, with justifications given for each job.

— Operational expenditures should reflect the real needs of each institution with attention to be given to reducing these expenses as much as possible.

— Capital expenditure should be restricted only to those projects being implemented at present for which these institutions have been committed. New plans should include only small and medium-size income-generating projects which can employ as many workers as possible.

— Allocations can be made to cover maintenance work.

— No new allocations should be made for the purchase of furniture unless for use by new employees or for technical purposes as in hospitals and schools.

— No new allocations should be

made for purchasing cars.

— Ministries in Amman should instruct their affiliated departments in various governorates to study services projects under their direction to be included in the 1993 budget.

— Capital budgets should be classified according to regions and development programmes in each governorate.

— Care should be taken to ensure that the ministries and departments are capable of implementing the requested capital projects to avoid allocations for projects exceeding the administrative and technical capabilities of these departments.

— Financial obligations to these various departments approved in the 1992 budget should be listed among those of the 1993 budgets.

— Secretary generals, directors and accountants attached to various departments are responsible

for the figures and data provided in the draft budgets they present to the Ministry of Finance.

On Monday, the prime minister issued another circular of instructions to all independent public institutions about preparing their 1993 budgets which would be reviewed by the budget department of the Ministry of Finance and normally endorsed parliament as well as the government by the end of the year. According to the prime minister's instructions to the independent organisations:

— salaries, wages and allowances should reflect those that are actually paid to employees and not those mentioned in the 1992 list of jobs.

— the independent institutions should not request any new jobs in the 1993 budget unless absolutely necessary, with justifications explained.

— operational expenditures should reflect the real needs of each institution.

— capital expenditure should be restricted only to those projects being implemented at present for which these institutions have been committed; new plans should include only small and medium size income generating projects which can employ as many workers as possible.

The prime minister further noted that these institutions should not request allocations for projects too big to handle.

He said that financial obligations of these institutions approved in 1992 should be listed among those of the 1993 budget and that these institutions should put forth proposals designed to help improve revenues.



Training halls for university law students

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan signed Tuesday an agreement with a local contracting company to construct training halls for law students at the university. The project, financed by a benefactor who preferred to remain anonymous, will include a large hall which could accommodate 250 students, offices for members

of the teaching staff and other facilities. The project will be finished by July 1993. The agreement was signed on behalf of the university by its vice-president for administrative affairs Suleiman Arabiyat and on behalf of the local company by its director general.

Seville Expo success for Jordan

SEVILLE (Petra) — An exhibition of Jordanian and Arab plastic art paintings held at the arts hall of Seville International Expo '92 concluded its activities Monday.

Mr. Armouti said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordan's participation in Seville Expo enjoys good coverage by the press and the Expo's pamphlets and publications.


His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's advisor Mazen Al Armouti, who is the Jordanian commissioner general to the Seville Expo affairs, said the three-week exhibition, which was organised by the Jordanian pavilion at the Expo in cooperation with the Arab League, witnessed a large turnout of visitors. He said the exhibition was visited by about 75,000 people who expressed admiration of the items displayed.

Jordan had been given a special entry in a guide on international participation in the Expo, Mr. Armouti said. The guide, which was prepared by an independent organisation to evaluate contributions to the expo, gave the Jordanian pavilion four stars for its participation, he said. He added that the higher grade for any pavilion was five and that Jordan was one of new countries that received a four-star grade.

This guide, Dr. Armouti said, described Jordan's participation as one of the best contributions to the expo in terms of cultural contents.

He added that the guide, published in English and Spanish, pointed out that Jordan's participation in the expo has proved that the best contributions at the international levels are not necessarily achieved by rich or large countries.

The Jordanian pavilion is witnessing a large turnout of visitors everyday, Dr. Armouti said. It was also visited by senior Arab and foreign officials, including princesses, parliament speakers, ministers, and journalists, he added.



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How democracy works

WHAT LESSONS, if any, are we Jordanians going to draw from Monday's debate of the alleged corruption case involving former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai, his Finance Minister Hanna Odeh and Public Works Minister Mahmoud Hawamdeh? Is this the case to end all cases or will the Pandora's box that has just been opened never be closed? Did parliament faithfully follow the Constitution in the formation of its Investigations Committee and in its deliberations? And is there libel resulting from the House's open debate?

These are only some of the questions that we have been left with in the wake of the clearing of Mr. Rifai's and Mr. Odeh's names and the indictment of Mr. Hawamdeh.

It will definitely be some time before some or all these questions are answered. What Jordanians ought to do now, however, is to sit back and reflect on the entire issue, especially in the context of our democratisation process.

The debate in the House during almost 15 hours of deliberations centred on a number of points. One was the necessity to fight corruption, expose it and endeavour to put an end to it. This has and continues to be a national consensus. But how to do that? Only time and experience will answer this question. Another point of contention was the charge by a number of deputies that the Jafr-Azraq highway case was a selective one.

That charge carries very little weight, since in fact selectivity is difficult to define in so-called corruption cases, and secondly because those who contend that the case was selective say so because they must possess information of "other" cases of corruption. If so, they are dutybound to expose whatever cases they knew about instead of charging that the Investigations Committee they themselves appointed was selective in choosing that case in particular.

Another charge levelled by some deputies was that the Investigations Committee was not neutral in its choice, investigation or report. That could be true. But judging from the number of votes that wanted Messrs Rifai and Odeh to face court, it is somehow doubtful that a random selection of deputies to the committee would have altered the course of events. We certainly are most concerned that the case, per se, could have damaged the reputation of the former officials in question. This particular issue should be taken into consideration in future investigations.

In any and all cases, we see advantages in exposing corruption or misuse of power of whatever we call wrongdoing by public officials. For one thing it could deter further similar corrupt actions, and contrary to the contention of some deputies that such investigation would discourage foreign assistance and investment in the country, the debate would encourage people to trust us. It would assure potential investors that controls do exist to protect their funds or aid.

In the final analysis this is what democracy is all about. While we do have our peculiar sensitivities, we must accept the fact that democracy means no less than, and nothing different from pluralism, participation and accountability to the people. Democracy is not only about competition to win power. It is also about the development of institutions and laws. Furthermore, democracy is at its best when it is learned through experience, by trial and error.

Students of democracy are like toddlers who crawl before they walk and walk before they run, while learning all the time how to move forward and keep going. We are on track, even if there is pain on the way. This is how democracy works.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Tuesday said that the convening of the next round of Arab-Israeli negotiations can only serve the Bush administration and that very little can be expected from the change of venue from Rome to Washington. Coming only a few months before the American presidential elections, the peace negotiations can help the president's image before the American public. Mr. Bush can claim that he is continuing all efforts to end regional conflicts and bring about peace to the Middle East, a long-sought objective by the people of the area and the world at large, said the daily. It said that Mr. Bush is in need of every possible support he can get to win a second term in office and, most importantly, he is in need of a way to convince the Jewish voters to support him in the coming elections, particularly, at a time when the president is finding it hard to cope with his opponent Bill Clinton. The paper said that by arranging for the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations to shift from Rome to Washington, Mr. Bush is trying to convince the Jews in Israel and the United States that he is the man of peace. But, the paper added, no one can be persuaded to believe that Mr. Bush is really intent on ensuring world peace as long as he continues the drive to starve the population of Iraq and continues to help Israel strike at Arab countries at will and commit atrocities in the occupied Arab lands. The paper said that the resumption of the peace negotiations in Washington is bound to bring about many positive and fruitful results of the Bush administration and also to the Zionists who will be able to obtain more concessions from Mr. Bush in exchange for their votes, but very little positive results can be expected for the Arab parties.

THE AMERICAN and allied forces' stranglehold on Aqaba-bound shipping came under attack Tuesday by Al-Dustour daily. The paper said that ever since the Gulf crisis broke out more than two years ago, Jordan has come under the clamp of the sanctions that are hurting its economy, causing suffering to its people. The sanctions and the search of vessels are continuing despite the fact that Jordan has showed total commitment to the U.N. sanctions and despite the western nations' knowledge of this fact, the paper pointed out. It said there is no doubt that the continued sanctions against Jordan and its international trade is part of the ongoing political revenge against the Kingdom for its position with regard to the whole Gulf crisis and because of Jordan's national stand which advocates a solution to Arab issues by Arab hands.

The new rebels: Soviet immigrant youth

By Judith Sudilovsky

THE Russian woman sat in Batya Weindenfeld's office and cried. She had come to Israel so her son's life would be better, but now her 15-year-old had spent a night in jail, and would have a police record for stealing cigarettes from a kiosk.

Ms. Weindenfeld, acting director of the juvenile probation office in Jerusalem, was able to persuade the police to close the case, but it's not always so easy, she said.

For teenage immigrants, the absorption process can be even harder than for their parents. The complexity of adolescence is compounded by being uprooted from familiar surroundings and transplanted to a country whose basic social structure is a puzzle to them, said Julia Mersky, a clinical psychologist and consultant on immigrant issues to the Joint Distribution Committee (JOC).

"The youngsters talk about trying to make contact with veteran residents, but they feel pushed away," said Ms. Mersky, who immigrated from the Soviet Union in 1965.

"The sabras have their own friends, and don't have the patience to overcome communication difficulties. This is very disappointing to the youngsters from the Soviet Union, and also contributes to their, in turn pushing society away."

Twins Marina and Aviv Ribner, 13, in Israel two years, said they feel excluded by their Israeli classmates. "They don't really understand me," Aviv said.

"They don't want to accept me. They think that because I'm from another country, I can't be their friend."

His sister defensively, "But I don't care; if they don't want me, I don't want them."

Some of the youngsters feel emotionally trapped. On the one hand, they are angry and want to lash out at their parents for hav-

ing brought them to Israel, where they feel out of place. On the other hand, they feel protective of their parents, as they see fathers and mothers—who once held positions as engineers and doctors—sweeping floors and cleaning apartments while struggling to learn a new language and culture.

"They sense their parents need them, so instead, the children act out against society," Ms. Mersky said. "It's a small percentage, but it will become a problem."

There are not official statistics on the number of youth from the former Soviet Union involved in delinquent behaviour, Ms. Weindenfeld said. But while her office saw only two or three cases last year, the number has increased to around 40 this year. She said most of the delinquent behaviour starts after the immigrants' first year in Israel.

"The first few months they don't know how the system works. They have to find themselves," she said. "Then it's hard for them to adapt to high school. They say school has not helped them, that the urban classes are out enough. Some stop going to school altogether."

The police have just started studying the behaviour of these youngsters, said Ze'eva Aharoni, head of the police juvenile-delinquent section.

"They've left their homes and come to a completely free society. It may be a problem, but it is too early to say anything yet," Ms. Aharoni said.

Professionals involved in the absorption of Russian immigrants see a frightening parallel between the handling of immigration today and the way mass immigration from Arab countries in the 1950s was handled.

"We're making the same mistakes we made then," said Yael Hassin, head of the Hebrew University Institute of Criminology.

She fears many of the ex-Soviet teenagers will be pushed to the fringes of society, like youths of the earlier immigration.

"No one pays attention to their social needs. I anticipate that the rate of delinquency will go up," Ms. Hassin said.

The latest immigrants face the same financial, housing, employment and cultural difficulties as the earlier ones, and the government has not come up with new methods of solving those problems, she said.

Rejected by their Israeli peers, ex-Soviet teens close ranks and stop trying to make contact with Israelis, Ms. Ribner said. They speak only Russian—though most of them understand Hebrew—which gives them a sense of power over teachers and social workers, and cuts them off from Israeli society, she said.

Yet the teenagers still want to look and feel as though they belong. That means wearing certain clothes and smoking the right cigarettes. Family budgets don't allow them to buy these things, so they resort to shoplifting, or breaking into homes to steal things, Ms. Hassin said.

"It's a kind of protest," she said. "They're saying 'You don't want me in your group, so I don't belong.'"

A group of young Soviet immigrants from Haifa who participated in a recent meeting with Israeli youth, arranged by Ms. Mersky at the JOC, nodded their heads knowingly when asked about delinquency among Soviet immigrant youth.

"They all knew of a girl who had become promiscuous because that was the only way she felt accepted by Israeli boys; or of a boy who had started drinking and running away from home."

In Haifa, they said, the Nordau pedestrian mall has become a meeting ground for Russian-speaking youths.

"Kids get bored and go there to drink; and to be a hero, to be cool," said Tanya Groyberg, 15.

But, said Marina Ribner, "not all problems start because of difficulties integrating into Israeli society. Some kids also had problems in Russia."

There doesn't yet seem to be a problem of delinquency among young people from Ethiopia, Ms. Hassin said. Their deep family ties and religious faith provide them with a strong support system, she said, and Ethiopian culture is also very closed, so such public expression of anger is not an option. Instead of delinquency, there is a relatively high suicide rate in this community, she said.

Not only do immigrants from Russia not mix with sabras teens at school, they don't mix on the streets either. The former drink, and this scares the Israelis, Ms. Weindenfeld said.

There have been fights between Russian-born and sabra groups in some neighbourhoods and schools, Ms. Weindenfeld said, but added that these incidents still seem to be the exception and not the rule.

Everybody hesitates to call these groups "street gangs." They say the groups tend to be more loosely connected than the street gangs in the U.S., and there is no hierarchical leadership in the sabra groups.

However, Rami Sulimani, head of the department of youth and education at the Joint Distribution Committee, who has been studying immigrant youth, said the stirrings of more gang-like behaviour can be seen in some development towns and south Tel Aviv neighbourhoods.

"We can see the beginnings of it," Ms. Hassin agreed. "They are the ones who sit on the railings and wait for something to happen." — The Jerusalem Post.

In Gaza, residents talk of peace or struggle amid squalor

By Said Ghazali
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip — Ibrahim Ahmad Taleb has fought in three wars against Israel, and his sons have been wounded and jailed in the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

Yet Mr. Taleb says he is ready for peace, and prepared to accept new offers of autonomy made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"We lost the homeland," he said. "My sons have hard lives. Forty times the army broke into our home, we have paid a dear price."

"Peace is hanging on our door," he said. "We do not want to lose the chance."

Not everyone agrees. Supporters of the Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas want to continue the struggle until an Islamic state stands on all of Palestine—including what is now Israel. Differences with the PLO have broken out in armed battles.

Mr. Taleb, 63, carries a scar on his left shoulder from a bullet he took while defending his village, which was swallowed up with the

founding of Israel in 1948. Last week, his 14-year-old son Awani was shot in the forehead with a rubber bullet in a clash with Israeli soldiers.

A resident of the Shati refugee camp, where 50,000 Palestinians are crammed on a dusty strip between Gaza City and the Mediterranean Sea, Mr. Taleb is tired of the Palestinians' 44-year-old struggle against the Jewish state.

Many in Shati are unemployed. Young men spend the hot, sticky days playing soccer and organising gangs in the Palestinian infitida, the uprising against Israeli occupation that has dragged on for 4½ years. Children as young as seven are ready to throw stones at any stranger.

But amid the monotony, the uncollected garbage and the open sewers along the narrow camp walkways, the Palestinians of Shati are debating the prospects of peace with Israel.

"The peace talks are like the breeze blowing from the sea," said Dush Sukar, musing about the U.S.-backed negotiations that Palestinians and Arab nations have been conducting with Israel. Mr. Sukar, 33, is a supporter of

Fatch, the mainstream faction of Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat. It backs the peace talks.

"I accept autonomy and elections," said Mr. Sukar, who hopes that new developments will lead to a Palestinian government that will have limited rule over Gaza and the West Bank until their final status is negotiated.

For Mr. Sukar and many other Palestinians, the ultimate goal is an independent state in the occupied territories. Others, however, want all of Palestine, including the land that is now Israel.

"Palestine is ours from river to sea," said Mr. Sukar's neighbour, Kamal Dayef, a 54-year-old photographer. "This is the way, to have more children, to liberate Palestine even after 100 years."

Mr. Taleb, a fighter who has tired of war, has his own sizeable flock—11 sons and seven daughters. But the toll the uprising has taken on his sons—a total of seven wounds and six jail terms—has convinced him of the need for a speedy and peaceful resolution of problems with the Jews.

The Taleb family lives in five small rooms. Mr. Taleb is disappointed that two children are unemployed and one gave up medical studies in Yugoslavia. Four others have jobs; the rest are too young to work.

Mr. Taleb fought in 1948, in the 1956 war when he spent four months in an Israeli prison, and finally in the 1967 war, when the West Bank and Gaza were captured. He worked collecting scrap metal in both Israel and Gaza until the Palestinian uprising broke out.

He said if Mr. Rabin was serious about peace, "Israel must withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza." He refuses to abandon the idea that Palestinians have a right to return to their homes in Israel or be compensated for lost land.

Mr. Taleb said that in his village of Hamam, destroyed and swallowed up into the Israeli city of Ashdod, 30 kilometres north of the Gaza Strip, his family had eight hectares planted with grapes, tomatoes, cucumbers and melon.

"I have the scar in body and heart," he said, pulling up the sleeve on his white robe to show his war wound.

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LETTERS

Public sector illusion

To the Editor:

There is a very sound argument for privatisation of the public sector (Fahed Faneh's column, Jordan Times, Aug. 2). Governments should concentrate on creating an environment which allows each individual member of society to work, create, and invest, to the best of his ability. Such an environment for the betterment of the whole (i.e. society), can only be realised in a free, laissez-faire economic climate. Economic initiative must be able to flourish without excessive governmental interference.

What the government views as good for all may only be good for itself. The writer Eduardo Galeano puts it succinctly: "The majority must resign itself to the consumption of fantasy. Illusions of wealth are sold to the poor, illusions of freedom to the oppressed, dreams of victory to the defeated and of power to the weak and nothing less will do."

Today, these illusions are not for us in Jordan especially now when the peace process is under way. Our political and economic objectives have to be redirected, our economy has to be rationalised, our systems have to be renovated, and our borders in the Fertile Crescent must be breached.

I call on our government to create a motivating economic environment, not by being a policeman, but by giving every Jordanian the opportunity to buy a piece of the productive structure of our economy. Let people own land, houses, and share in our industries—phosphate, potash, hotels, telecommunications, ports, etc. People who own become capitalists, work hard, and therefore have an interest in preserving free enterprise and stable political system, a system which supports a free market economy. We must elect those who can deliver a better future based on these ideals, rather than on illusions.

Wafai K. Dajani,
Amman.

What is the truth?

To the Editor:

Under the attractive title "The moment of truth is at hand," (Jordan Times, July 21, 1992), Rami Khouri wrote an article in which he stated his optimistic assessment of the Arab-Israeli peace process by claiming that the Rabin government's decision to freeze the signing of new contracts for housing signals the real start of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

I wonder how Mr. Khouri, a man whom I respect for his attitude and intelligence, can be impressed by such an empty and meaningless announcement, ignoring the major elements in Mr. Rabin's speech, such as his policy towards Jerusalem. On the other hand, I don't think Mr. Khouri would deny that the main motive behind Mr. Rabin's announcement was James Baker's trip and the loan guarantees.

Mr. Khouri suggests that "the United States will now start to play a more active and direct role in the negotiations, offering a combination of suggestions, offers, threats, pressures and enticements." I would agree with Mr. Khouri that the White House is trying to play a more active role with the parties involved in the conflict, but the question is rather how would the mechanisms be mentioned be applied and to whom?

Do we, the Arabs, expect to get the encouraging offers or enticements from the American envoys, and expect Israel to get the pressures and threats? There should be no doubt that the opposite is true if only for a single reason: the George Bush presidential campaign is badly in need of the Jewish vote to help his trailing Republican ticket.

Mr. Khouri then goes on to say "the predominant attitude among the parties in the region is that the other side must respond in their demands before progress can be made. Neither side is willing to make unilateral substantive gestures or concessions." Again I would like to ask Mr. Khouri what kind of concessions he imagines the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, can make?

Mr. Khouri in his article searches for the most effective way to entice the Israelis to make real moves for peace by projecting what the Israelis fear, need, desire and dream about. A wise conjecture concerning the Israeli mentality would indicate that they fear nothing except Arab unity and this is something they don't worry about now. Their need is always for more help, support and military supremacy. Their desire is to conclude and sign peace treaties with the Arab states and have normal access to Arab markets and oil. As for their dream, obviously, it is expansion and achieving a greater Israel.

Then Mr. Khouri states: "The Israelis have two basic obsessions: security, and acceptance by the Arabs... Acceptance by the Arab World is a powerful need in the Israeli psyche." Personally I don't quite understand how we can assign ourselves to speak on behalf of the Israelis and announce that they have these two basic obsessions.

Even more surprisingly Mr. Khouri adds: "The symbols of Arab acceptance of Israel, and Israel's ultimate integration into the Middle East... provide us with the most important cards to play in the negotiations." Let me admit in this context that I am impressed by Mr. Khouri's optimism and wishful thinking in being able to envision the prospect of a unified Arab World facing a day Jewish state with a strong desire for acceptance in the Middle East. However, we would be very naive in believing that Israel's final goal is to be integrated into the region. If we hold this false belief, we are wrongly assuming that Jews have given up their aspiration for expansion and achieving a greater Israel.

Concerning the negotiations, Mr. Khouri states that both the Israelis and the Arabs have made only symbolic concessions as if they were equal negotiating parties, not differentiating between oppressor and oppressed. The danger of the two-track approach in the negotiations should be obvious to everyone. We all know the consequences of the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, 15 years ago at Camp David, in which the whole process was not linked with Palestine or the occupation.

Mr. Khouri assumes that we possess the ability to strike forcefully, and compel Israel "to respond to our rights and the will of the international community" by offering "confidence-building measures" that will supposedly bring Arabs "real gains in return." Using the same criteria, Mr. Khouri proceeds to affirm that Arabs and Israelis are in a state of détente. The question, however, is what mechanisms can we use to compel Israel to respond positively to our rights in return for the concessions we make. Is it Arab unity? Influence on the White House or our present real threat to Israel's existence? I am not trying to say, that the Arabs are incapable of ever facing Israel, but rather that this is neither the right time nor the right way to look for peace in the region.

Mr. Khouri's premise that we are at a historic point "where Arabs and Israelis are negotiating about the practicalities of coexistence, mutual security guarantees, and a new Middle Eastern order in which Israel lives as one of many equal states in the region" does not tackle the core of the Arab-Israeli problem. It should be made clear that no negotiations can take place as long as Israel rejects Palestinian self-determination and the creation of an independent Palestinian state. No other problem should be addressed before we achieve major progress on these three crucial issues.

...The elimination of all Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.
...Israel withdrawal from all occupied territories.
...Israel acceptance of co-existence with a sovereign Palestinian state.

The above three points represent the core of the dilemma when "mutual security guarantees" between the Arab states and Israel could be addressed at a later stage.

Truthfully, it is hard to imagine what Mr. Khouri means when he says "real and substantial concessions will have to be made very soon." Does this mean signed peace treaties and establishing immediate diplomatic relations with Israel, putting an end to the boycott and opening our markets to their goods hoping that the Jewish state may give us some rights in return? Why should we proceed to do so in the first place? We have never been aggressors or invaders. Why shouldn't the Israelis announce their readiness to withdraw from the occupied territories and accept co-existence with a sovereign Palestinian state?

If the Israeli need for acceptance by the Arabs were so powerful as Mr. Khouri claims, then Israel would not defy the will of the international community time and again, deny Palestinians their legitimate rights for self-determination on their own soil and claim full sovereignty over Jerusalem.

However, I would agree with Mr. Khouri that the Israelis are badly in need of acceptance by the Arabs. The question should be: How do they want such acceptance? Many would agree that Israel wants us to accept them first and foremost on all Palestinian soil. Yes, the moment of truth is at hand, but it is of the utmost importance to realise what the truth really is.

Dr. Khalil Hamdi,
P.O. Box 7044,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Handwritten signature: *جوليا مرسكي*

Rifai says charges fabricated

(Continued from page 1)

considering legal action to clear his name. "I am not going to drop it," he said.

"I have endured a lot and have been a target of a lot of abuse and if this was going to be beneficial to the country I would endure it," Mr. Rifai said. "But when things go beyond their limits, one must act and place limits." He did not reveal who he was considering legal action against saying that he still wanted to check legal references for any action he might take.

At the same time, Mr. Rifai said he would not use information available to him during his 12 years of service as prime minister to "get even."

"I wouldn't stoop so low to get even," he said, adding that he hoped that his case would be the first and the last of its kind.

"I am the first political personality to go through this and hope that I am the last," he said, adding that if there was any "wrongdoing beyond any shadow of a doubt, I still believe that it should be handled without a carnival." It was an obvious reference to the way this case was publicised in the media and in the public house sessions. Such affairs should be handled "if not in secret at least discreetly," he

said. He pointed out that in such cases "what should become public is the verdict, not the process leading to it."

When asked about the details of the case, Mr. Rifai said he failed to understand how it was made to be a case when all its details failed to constitute a crime or even a case.

But he explained that there was no tender to construct the Al Jafir Al Azraq Highway, which was the case the House tried to indict Mr. Rifai on, and that it was "not an ordinary project nor a tender. So we were not limited to taking the cheapest prices."

"It was a trade exchange in which we tried to respond to India's demand that there be some semblance of balance of payment and trade between us and the Indian market which was importing \$150 million in phosphates, potash and fertilisers," Mr. Rifai explained.

He also said that considering that Jordan had an excess production of cement from Jordan's factory in the south, "we made it a condition on the Indian company, Son Dutt Builders, not to use imported cement when constructing the road."

According to Mr. Rifai, the Indian company used 375,000 tonnes of Jordanian cement at a price of JD 35 per tonne "which

brought back JD 12 million of the contract value back to cement factory." He added that while deputies were charging that cement should not have been used in the construction of the highway, the alternative, which is asphalt, "would have had to be imported because it was a by-product of fuel and we would have needed foreign currency to pay for it."

"But suppose that all these matters did not figure in our decision and it was just the view of the government that we should construct the highway out of cement rather than asphalt, does this constitute a crime?" Mr. Rifai asked.

Following is the text of the statement issued by Mr. Rifai:

Yesterday the respectable Lower House of Parliament rejected false accusations levelled by some members of the Investigations Committee at me about what was called the "Al Jafir Al Azraq" road case. This was not originally considered a case because trade exchanges with India were involved in the road project and other projects which were connected to adjusting the balance of payment and trade between the two countries. This has subsequently forced Jordan and all its successive governments to take this point into consideration in order to ensure continued exports of Jordanian phosphate,

potash and fertilisers to India.

Along with a number of other honourable people in Jordan I was the victim of an unjust and strange campaign for the past three years. But this campaign was centred on me in particular and touched upon my late father who had accompanied the late King Abdullah, founder of the Kingdom and who remained until the last breath of his life serving a loyal soldier of the Hashemite family and remained a loyal servant of Jordan, helping fulfil the aspirations of the people and the Arab Nation. This unjust campaign has harmed my family, which has been watching the unjust arrows dropping on my household in great numbers.

I knew for sure that the arrows were targeted against me and the whole country and the country's national role and the Arab message, which His Majesty King Hussein has been upholding and defending.

I chose to endure and remain patient while relatives and friends were continually urging me to reply and expose the facts to the public. But I chose not to lower myself to the low level to which the malicious people had wanted me.

I did not feel that I should transfer the treacherous stabs and the arrows from my heart to the heart of the nation and from my body to the body of dear Jordan. Therefore I chose to be patient and persevere and stifle my indignation and endured the harm done to me.

God Almighty has now chosen to expose the injustice and those behind it and those lies and slanders. All their falsehood and their leanness and their lies and their remarks in the press about my selling of the country's gold assets and other allegations are collapsing. Our public prosecutors have legally and rightly exposed their lies.

The malicious group whose misdeeds had caused so much damage to Jordan's reputation chose a few days ago to focus public attention on a crystal-clear case. It is a case in which the then Council of Ministers had awarded a tender to a consortium of Indian government firms to build the strategic road linking Jordan with Iraq. The tender was granted to the Indians for considerations related to ensuring continued Jordanian phosphate sales to India.

I have always cherished my

faith in the Jordanian citizens of all sectors and in the badia, the rural and urban regions. I have always had faith in the people's awareness and soundness of national feelings of national belonging. I have always believed in the high morals and esteemed pure feelings of the Jordanian citizens who shun evil and false tales. I always believed in that the people realise the truth more than the malicious groups can image.

Since more than three years ago the arrows have been falling on me and on dear Jordan. All the prominent people of Jordan, the pioneers who built the country, were not taken in by the falsehoods. These are the people who came from Karak, Tafleh, Maan, Salt and Balqa as well as those who came from Irbid, Ramtha, Ajloun and Karak in addition to those living in the midst of the forests and on the mountains of Kura or those who live in tents along the fringes of the desert and in their humble homes at Ras Al Ain, Wadi Seer and Naour.

The malicious group considers that the people of Jordan are ignorant and that the rulers of the country knew no laws or constitution. This group tries to deprive the people of their accomplishments which in many cases were tantamount to miracles. This group also denies all that has been achieved at all levels and the many sacrifices offered by the people of Jordan. This group denies the state's endeavours backed by its armed forces and all its services in attaining better life for Jordan and its citizens. The malicious group denies the services offered by the regime and the benefits enjoyed through this regime, which has won the people's confidence and affection.

This regime has led the people along the path of development and progress and built a model state and source of pride for the Arabs and the world at large.

This group has denied all and by so doing it has turned away the friends from our green oasis thus turning the country into a barren desert for wild animals and snakes. This malicious group of

people has tried its hand to harm the regime itself trying to cut off its branches and to encroach upon the institutions in order to distort them serving other purposes.

May God bless those honourable deputies who have a living conscience and those whom fear God has driven to remain keen on protecting the country and to show the real honest meanings of national belongings and to put matters in their right perspective and to raise high the standard of justice and right.

I feel honoured and overjoyed in these hours as I address my countrymen who have overwhelmed me over the past three years with affection and who over the past few days flooded me with their noble feelings and sublime sentiments and true affection. They have eased the burden from my soul and that of my family. May God bless them and protect Jordao and his noble and courageous King and his Crown Prince and the Hashemite family and may God bless all people of Jordan.

Voting pattern shows affiliations

(Continued from page 1)

Tayeh, Ata Shahwan and Ahmad Aweidi Abbadi.

Amman Deputy Taher Al Masri, who had served as foreign minister in the last Rifai government, voted for the indictment of his former cabinet colleague Mr. Hawamdeh but abstained from voting for the indictment of Mr. Odeh and Mr. Rifai.

Marawan al Hmoud, the veteran deputy from the Balqa governorate, who served as minister of agriculture and municipalities under Mr. Rifai, was one of the seven deputies who failed to attend the two

House sessions that dealt with corruption cases.

Only two deputies, Issa Rimoni and Jamal Sarehah of the Constitution Bloc, abstained for the indictment of all three accused former officials.

Independent maverick deputy Ahmad Aweidi Abbadi, who had severely attacked Mr. Rifai's policies during the first vote-of-confidence session of the House in December 1989, voted against Mr. Rifai's indictment while abstaining from voting on the charges the other two former officials.

Many political observers saw the vote to indict the three officials as more than conviction of their guilt but as an early campaign ploy to for next years parliamentary elections.

"Political parties like the pan-Arab, left-wing and Islamist parties will use the vote in their favour when they go to the polls. But so will some of the more, politically pro-establishment deputies who hope to form political parties and run for reelection as the leaders of those parties," said one veteran political observer.

Many deputies ran anti-corruption campaign during the fall of 1989.

Deputies Rawabdeh (Irbid) and Arar are forming their own political parties. But Christian Deputy Tuameh (Balqa Governorate), who was backed by Islamists in his bid for the Lower House, will need

the Islamist vote again if he decides to run in the 1993 election as an independent. He has said he will be standing for reelection.

Dr. Ensour is also expected to run for reelection and, having used anti-corruption slogans during his last campaign, a vote not to indict Mr. Rifai, whom he personally attacked, would have somehow tarnished that campaign promise, political observers say.

Observers believe that the majority of the deputies who abstained or voted against the indictment of any of the accused officials have either a solid tribal base or are destined for government positions and thus do not count on public support for their political support.

Of the deputies in question four — Mr. Hindawi, Mr. Sowar, Mr. Kabari and Mr. Khreisheh — hold cabinet posts in the current government. Four others, Faisal Al Jezi, Nayef Abo Tayeh and Ata Shahwan are representatives of the three bedouin districts. Both Mr. Abbadi and Mr. Obeidat were elected by their extended family and tribes while Mr. Rimoni, who abstained from voting, was elected due largely to traditional politics in the rural district of Ajloun. Mr. Sarehah Minister of Communications, who like Mr. Rimoni abstained from voting throughout, and Christian Deputy Saad Haddadin were backed by Islamists in the 1989 elections.

Arabiyat

(Continued from page 1)

on journalists to assume the effective role expected of them in keeping the public informed and establish themselves as a powerful fourth estate in the Kingdom.

The meeting with Dr. Arabiyat was part of a campaign by the new council of the press association to activate its role after a long period of inactivity caused by financial problems and internal conflict.

The new council was elected last month and has promised a complete revamping of the beleaguered union.

'Infiltration'

(Continued from page 1)

said they had no clues the guerrillas came from Jordan but that troops were combing the area along the borders to detect traces on an infiltration attempt.

The area of the attack is across the Jordan River from the Jordanian villages of Farah and Deir Al Samidiyah.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, questioned about the attack in Israel's parliament, said, "Extremist elements carry out such attacks in the hopes they will destroy the chance for peace."

U.N. team

(Continued from page 1)

through the Gulf's calm, blue-green waters.

More than half were veterans of the Gulf war.

Officers said they did not expect any trouble from Iraq during the joint exercises, which are to continue through Aug. 17.

In all, more than 5,000 U.S. troops from all military branches are to take part in the desert exercises with about 1,900 Kuwaitis, officials say.

The United States decided to double the number of soldiers participating after the stand-off over the Iraqi agriculture ministry.

A pro-government Iranian newspaper denounced the military exercises as provocative at a time when the Gulf region enjoyed peace.

The English-language daily Tehran Times said in an editorial: "The manoeuvres by the American forces are taking place at a time when, contrary to the baseless claims by Washington, there is no trace of a destabilising factor in the region."

"The Kuwaiti government ... should realise that at the moment the region is in need of peace and the absence of agitating factors in order to engage in the reconstruction of the ruins left behind by the Iraqi invasion of Iran and Kuwait."

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Funeral for two tots comes under attack in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Mourners ran for cover Tuesday as mortar shells landed near the graves of two young children who were killed as relief officials tried to evacuate them from Sarajevo.

The grandmother of one of the children was wounded by flying debris.

"My daughter is dead, and now they've injured my mother," wailed Svetlana Glavas. She tugged at her frayed purple sweater as her mother, Ruza, was taken away for medical attention. Doctors said her wounds did not appear to be severe.

Two-year-old Vedrana Glavas and 1-year-old Roki Sulejmanovic were laid to rest side-by-side Tuesday in the shadow of a battered Lion Statue, the symbol of Bosnia, when three shells, apparently from mortars, landed nearby.

About 20 children from the orphanage where Vedrana and Roki had been sheltered ran for cover behind parked cars and a stone wall. Svetlana Glavas stumbled as she ran.

After a pause, one more shell landed in soft earth in front of adults leaving the cemetery, kicking up debris that wounded Vedrana's grandmother.

"We just put them in the ground, and the shells came," said Dusko Tomice, secretary general of the children's embassy, which organized the evacuation in which the two children were shot by gunmen.

There was more heavy fighting around the Bosnian capital overnight. Bosnian Territorial Forces are trying to break the grip of besieging Serbs.

Linn Cemetery has been caught in heavy fighting, but the timing and location of the shelling of the funeral indicated the attack was intentional.

Vedrana, a Serb, and Roki, a Muslim, were among about 50 children who were being evacuated by bus from the besieged Bosnian capital Saturday when their vehicle was hit by sniper fire. It is unclear who fired on the bus.

In a second evacuation attempt Sunday, nine children were removed from the bus by Serb police who believed they were Serbs. In their nationalist campaign for ethnic purity in Bosnia, Serbs reportedly have been expelling Muslims and Croats from their homes and repopulating the towns with Serbs.

The other children were allowed to continue to the Croatian port of Split, and then flown

to Germany Tuesday. The evacuation had been organized by two eastern German state law-makers.

On Monday, the U.S. State Department said it had confirmed Serbia was torturing and killing Croats and Muslims in detention camps. Croatia and Bosnia have set up similar camps, but State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States has no reports of abuses similar to those attributed to Serbia.

Mr. Bolucher said the United States was not considering military action to end the ethnic fighting.

Fighting that erupted late Monday in Sarajevo ended a 36-hour lull in which Muslim-led Bosnian government tried to consolidate modest gains they had made in a previous round of fighting. The Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency reported that Serbs were successfully defending their positions around the capital.

The leader of Bosnia's Serbs accused rival Muslims of "staging" a mortar attack on the funeral of two children Tuesday to bring international condemnation of the Serbs.

Radovan Karadzic told Britain's Sky Television News from

Bosnia-Herzegovina that his forces did not carry out the attack during the funeral of the two infants.

Meanwhile a United Nations peacekeeping soldier had died in a German military hospital after being wounded by a mortar bomb in Sarajevo last week, the German Defence Ministry said Monday.

The Ukrainian soldier, 26, who was flown to Germany for treatment along with another wounded Ukrainian, died of severe skull wounds in Ulm Saturday after an operation, a ministry spokesman said.

His body will be given to the Ukrainian embassy to be returned to Ukraine.

The other soldier was said to be in a critical condition in a hospital in Munich.

The two soldiers were among five Ukrainians serving with the United Nations peacekeeping force who were wounded in the attack Friday.

A Ukrainian Defence Ministry statement said a Serbian mortar round fell into a trench where a radar battery platoon was sheltering.

A 420-strong Ukrainian battalion in Bosnia is the first from the republic ever to take part in a U.N. peacekeeping operation.



The parents and relatives of a 15-year-old Muslim combatant mourn during the funeral in Sarajevo

Bonn indicates it would like permanent Security Council seat

BONN (R) — Germany, keen to play a more active role in world affairs since it united in 1990, gave the strongest indication yet that it would like a permanent seat on the 15-member United Nations Security Council.

Asked about newspaper speculation that Bonn was lobbying behind the scenes for a place alongside permanent members the United States, Russia, China, France, and Britain, Foreign Ministry spokesman Rainer Mueler said:

"Our position is known. There will be no initiative from our side."

But in a departure from Germany's traditional reticence on the subject, he added:

"Of course ... if as a result of initiatives by others there were to be changes in the makeup of the U.N. Security Council, then we would have to protect

our interests and respond appropriately."

The fact that we are not taking the initiative does not mean we have no interest in the matter," Mr. Mueler added. "That is not the case."

German officials said the spokesman's remarks reflected Bonn's view that the question of reorganising Security Council seats had become more topical. Japan, like Germany, a defeated power in World War II, has been pushing openly for a permanent Security Council seat.

The German magazine Der Spiegel reported in February that U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali wanted the Council to take in five more permanent members — Germany, Japan, India, Brazil and Nigeria.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl has said Germany has no interest in seeking a permanent seat. Stung by criticism of Bonn's

refusal to send troops to the U.N. operation in the Gulf last year, Mr. Kohl has been pressing for Germany to become more active in world affairs.

In particular, he wants Germany to start sending troops on U.N. peace missions. This is likely to require an amendment to the constitution, which is widely interpreted as prohibiting the dispatch of German troops outside the NATO area.

Mr. Mueler said Germany was confident that as part of growing political union in the European Community, the permanent seats now held by EC members Britain and France would gradually be "Europeanised."

Meanwhile, Germany became the first European country to start dumping its cold war arsenal on the scrapheap Monday when officials lit a blowtorch to destroy a Soviet-made armoured car and a cannon.

ANC strike angers Pretoria

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A general strike called by Nelson Mandela to press for democracy shut businesses across South Africa in a powerful display of anti-apartheid muscle.

But the protest stoked tensions in black townships and drew widespread accusations of coercion.

Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) hailed the first day of the two-day strike as a victory against 300 years of white rule, saying absenteeism of up to 90 per cent of workers in many areas showed massive opposition to reformist President F.W. de Klerk.

"The general strike gives voice to the deep-seated anger of millions about the De Klerk government's refusal to negotiate in good faith and end township violence," said ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa.

But in townships around Johannesburg many residents holed up behind burning barricades said there was ANC intimidation.

"Intimidation is rife in my area. I wanted to go to work but could not gamble with my life," said Nancy Kgomo, a president of Johannesburg's Katsheho township.

Residents said they expected violent clashes Tuesday between ANC activists and forces loyal to Oupa Gqozo, pro-De Klerk ruler of the Ciskei tribal territory who said he would use force to stop an ANC march into his military-ruled homeland.

Eight people were killed in political violence Monday on the first day of a week of protests aimed at forcing the white government to cede power to an all-race interim administration.

Three of the eight were killed in a shootout with police in Soweto. Police fired tear gas in Cape Town's Manenberg ghetto and in nominally independent Ciskei to disperse ANC demonstrators who set up barricades of burning cars, tyres and rubble.

At least 33 blacks were killed in various parts of the country Saturday and Sunday, 11 of them in attacks by a group of hooded men with shotguns in the Natal province township of Esikawini.

Mr. De Klerk's ruling National Party said the consequences of the strike had been bloody and demanded the ANC halt protests immediately in the interests of the country.

The Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut business group charged that the largest anti-government demonstration for two years was based on what it called nationwide intimidation.

The South African Chamber of Business estimated two million workers took part in the strike — half the ANC's estimate — and said the stoppage would cost the sanctions-bled economy millions of rands (dollars).

The government banned the carrying of a wide range of weapons from guns and spears to garden forks in 20 townships around Johannesburg to try to prevent more of the violence that has taken 6,000 lives in the past two years.

Much of the carnage has been between the ANC and the conservative Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party. Mr. Mandela's most powerful rival for the allegiance of 28 million blacks.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Tudjman wins Croatian elections

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) — Croatian President Franjo Tudjman posted a clear victory in the first general elections since the republic won independence from Serb-led Yugoslavia, according to preliminary results released Monday. With about 75 per cent of Sunday's vote counted, Mr. Tudjman led with 55.79 per cent in the eight-man race for president. His governing Croatian Democratic Union had 41.55 per cent for parliamentary elections, the electoral commission said. Mr. Tudjman, a former Communist general, campaigned for re-election on claims that he had fulfilled the country's centuries-old dreams for independence. "This is a great victory. We had expected such support from the Croatian people," Mr. Tudjman said. Mr. Tudjman's closest rival, Drazen Erdovic of the Croatian Social Liberal Party, captured 22.59 per cent of the vote for president, according to the preliminary results. His party also was running second in parliamentary voting, with 18.31 per cent.

Peacekeepers complete Moldova deployment

MOSCOW (R) — Russian peacekeeping troops have completed their move to separate the warring factions in Moldova's breakaway Dnestr Region, Russian Television said. The move, which came five days after the first troops moved into the region, means Moldovan and Dnestr forces have returned home and the soldiers of Russia's 14th Army have moved back to their barracks, the report said. In the trans-Caucasian republic of Georgia, the ruling State Council prepared an amnesty for rebels arrested since the overthrow of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia in January, local journalists said. They quoted a press spokesman for the council as saying "against strong opposition, after arguing the government had to make a gesture towards Gamsakhurdia's supporters. They said the amnesty would include armed rebels who briefly seized the republic's radio and television tower and studio in June. The insurgents surrendered after a gun-battle."

Wallenberg 'assumed' to be alive

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Prime Minister Carl Bildt said Tuesday that Sweden must assume diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, the rescuer of tens of thousands of Hungarians, may still be alive 47 years after the Soviet army arrested him. Wallenberg, imprisoned in the Soviet Union in January 1945 after he rescued tens of thousands of Hungarians from the Nazis, would have become 80 years old Tuesday if he were alive. "As long as contrary has not been proved, we must assume that he may still be alive," Bildt said in a statement commending Wallenberg's war-time deeds. The Soviet Union has never given any proof of what happened to Wallenberg, except for a memorandum, dated July 17, 1947, saying the Swedish diplomat had died of a heart attack that year — at the age of 35 in Moscow's infamous Lubyanka Prison.

Surinam, rebels reach peace pact

PARAMARIBO, Surinam (R) — Amerindian and African guerrilla groups reached a peace accord with Surinam's government designed to restore the prosperity and political stability this South American country lost a decade ago. Hundreds of insurgents, who first took up arms in 1986 to topple the former military regime, agreed to surrender their weapons within two weeks, negotiators said. A key element is a decision to grant amnesty to guerrillas and to the military despite human rights abuses, including executions, by soldiers against critics and suspected rebel sympathisers. A blanket amnesty for both sides was opposed by some members of the government but it was deemed necessary to secure lasting peace with army commander Colonel Desi Bouterse, who led coups in 1980 and 1990.

Senate restricts U.S. nuclear tests

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate has voted to sharply restrict — and eventually end — U.S. testing of nuclear weapons, defying President George Bush and culminating a four-decade struggle by testing opponents. On a vote of 68-26, senators voted to add the anti-testing provision to a \$22 billion measure financing federal water and energy projects in the year that begins Oct. 1. Majority leader George Mitchell called the action "an historic acknowledgement of the transmutation of international politics" and took a swipe at what he termed Mr. Bush's "poor record" on the testing issue. "Surely there has to be some kind of an end to this activity," said Sen. Mark Hatfield, and Oregon Republican. "Are we really locked into the proposition that testing goes on in perpetuity?" The provision pushed by Sen. Hatfield, Sen. Mitchell and Democratic Sen. James Exon of Nebraska, would impose a nine-month moratorium on nuclear weapons tests, then permit limited safety testing for three years. Testing would be halted altogether in 1996.

Suspected Sikhs kill 29 Hindus

LUCKNOW, India (R) — Suspected Sikh militants shot dead 29 Hindus, including three women and two children, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, police said. The bullet-ridden bodies of the victims, who had been reported missing from two villages since Friday, were found on the banks of the Khannaur River, about 28 kilometres from Ferozpur, police said in the state capital Lucknow. Police said the massacre could have been carried out on Sunday but that would only be confirmed by a postmortem of the victim's bodies. The victims, from Khannaur and Shivnagar villages, were reported missing Friday after they went into the nearby forest to collect firewood, said Deputy Inspector General of Police A.K. Mitra. The two villages are 10 kilometres apart and the bodies were found midway between them.

Russia, Ukraine strike deal on Black Sea Fleet

MUKHALATKA, Ukraine (R) — Russia and Ukraine have agreed over their differences on how to divide the Black Sea Fleet.

Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk stepped back from the brink of confrontation at a hastily-convened meeting on the Crimean coast — patrolled by some of the warships which the two Slav giants have been arguing over since the Soviet Union collapsed.

The two leaders described the accord as an example of their new spirit of cooperation. But they may only have succeeded in putting off the day of reckoning.

The agreement transfers the fleet from Commonwealth to joint Russian-Ukrainian command. It clears the way for the signing of a friendship and cooperation treaty as well as important trade and economic accords.

"The decision is in the interests of Ukraine, Russia, Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet," Mr. Yeltsin told a news conference after the talks.

"People predicted the complete collapse of this summit, but I want to disappoint those prophets. There is a result."

There were signs at Monday's meeting near the popular Black Sea resort of Yalta that a new period of Russian-Ukrainian "detente" was beginning.

But the thorny question of how to settle rival claims to the fleet's 380 ships, including 43 battleships and 70,000 men, remains to be decided.

White House repudiates harsh anti-Clinton statement

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (Agencies) — President George Bush Monday disavowed a campaign statement that called Democrat Bill Clinton a "snivelling" hypocrite, and the White House said its author, political director Mary Matalin, had apologised.

"We will continue to run a good clean hard-hitting campaign. The president is determined to keep this campaign out of the sleaze business," White House spokeswoman Judy Smith told reporters in Florida, where Mr. Bush was campaigning.

The president visited the key southern state after a brief stop in Georgia, where he attacked Mr. Clinton as a foreign policy neophyte who would raise taxes by \$150 billion if elected to the White House on Nov. 3.

Without mentioning Mr. Clinton by name, Mr. Bush said Mr. Clinton had been saying that America was a second-rate power, and that his economic plans would lead to a major tax increase.

Ms. Matalin, who released the stinging statement Sunday as Bush and Clinton forces traded charges over which side was waging the dirtier campaign, "today issued a statement apologising and taking full responsibility," Mr. Smith said.

The spokeswoman added that Mr. Bush accepted the apology and "has full confidence" in Ms. Matalin.

However, White House sources said Mr. Bush was "very

upset" about the controversy, which erupted as he struggled to revitalise his flagging re-election campaign less than two weeks before the Republican convention in Houston.

Adding to the impression of disarray within the Bush camp, a spokesman at campaign headquarters in Washington said the statement of apology that Mr. Smith mentioned was not immediately available.

Ms. Matalin's statement raised eyebrows in political circles because of her romantic involvement with James Carville, her counterpart in the Clinton campaign organisation, before the campaign started.

Both have said they put their relationship on hold once it became clear they would be squaring off against each other in the presidential race.

The statement took exception to Mr. Carville's assertion that the Bush campaign was engaging in dirty politics and accused Mr. Clinton and his supporters of numerous below-the-belt remarks.

However, only a few of those cited were made by Mr. Clinton himself. Several were attributed to Democratic presidential primary foes, including former California Governor Jerry Brown.

Ms. Matalin's statement also alluded to Mr. Clinton's past marital difficulties, a subject Mr. Bush had promised would be off-limits, asking rhetorically: "Which campaign had to spend

thousands of taxpayer dollars on private investigators to fend off 'bimbo eruption'?"

A Clinton campaign aide was identified as the source of the colourful phrase about allegations of womanising.

"We respectfully request that you and your fellow Democrat snivelling hypocrites read our lips: Shut up and sit down so we can get back to more highlights of the Clinton record," the statement said.

Mr. Bush, who was accused in 1988 of running a campaign that avoided the issues and focused instead on attacking Democrat Michael Dukakis, is trailing Mr. Clinton badly in polls.

A survey conducted by Florida's radio networks showed him trailing Mr. Clinton in Florida, which is an integral part of his political base. The statewide poll, conducted by telephone and in street interviews, showed Mr. Clinton with 43 per cent support compared to 29 per cent for Mr. Bush.

Senior White House officials expressed dismay at the tone of Ms. Matalin's statement, which overshadowed Mr. Bush's attempts in Chicago Sunday to play up differences with Mr. Clinton on health care. One official pointedly said: "You won't see anything like that again."

Another official said Secretary of State James Baker's expected takeover of the campaign later this month has likely to bring a shake-up of the campaign staff. President Bush charged Demo-

crats Monday with "distorting a good, solid world leadership record."

Mr. Bush, at a campaign stop in north Georgia, accused Mr. Clinton of belittling America's role as a world power.

Speaking to several hundred carpet workers, Mr. Bush said: "I heard a certain southern governor say the other day that this country was being ridiculed around the world."

"I suspect that he hasn't been around much," said Mr. Bush. "I'd like to have him walk the streets of Warsaw as I did a few days ago or Moscow or maybe sit down with Boris Yeltsin or Helmut Kohl or Miyazawa or a myriad of leaders South of our border and they'd tell him what you and I already know: The United States is the undisputed leader of the world," he said.

"And that did not happen by accident. It happened by leadership."

Mr. Bush said he wanted to come to Dalton, a carpet-manufacturing centre, because it sells products all over the world. "The guy I'm running against is calling America the laughing stock," Mr. Bush said. "Don't tell me the United States can't compete when you see a place like this."

At an earlier airport rally, Mr. Bush charged that, "for six months, the opposition has been distorting a good, solid world leadership record and we are not going to let that stand."

COLUMN

Maria Maples makes Broadway debut

NEW YORK (AP) — A critic panned her even before her Broadway debut, but Maria Maples got scattered applause and appreciative laughs when she performed in the Tony Award-winning Will Rogers Follies Monday night. New York magazine critic John Simon had advised theatergoers a week earlier to see the musical before the off-and-on companion of millionaire developer Donald Trump took over the role of "Ziegfeld's favourite" from Cady Huffman. The part calls for a beautiful blonde to saunter back and forth on stage as mistress of ceremonies wearing very little in the way of costumes. Simon said Maples "studied mostly at the Donald Trump academy and surely cannot hold a candle to Miss Huffman" — and I'm not just talking about the disparity in height. "Mr. Trump snorted when asked about Simon's review. "It's inconceivable that a man could give a review before he's even seen her," Mr. Trump said. Mr. Trump also pointed out that Maples is 5 foot 9 inches tall (1.75 metres). "Is that short?" he said. Huffman, who was nominated for a Tony in the part, stands 5 foot 10 (1.78 metres). On Monday night, Maples appeared nervous and stiff at first but relaxed considerably as the show went on. Maples had rehearsed for the past four weeks, often up to six hours a day. Mr. Trump said the 28-year-old Ms. Maples was "very nervous" Monday but added that "she's confident she has real talent. If she pulls this off like I know she can, it'll show great courage," said Mr. Trump. "There's truly a lot of pressure on her."

Michael Jackson resumes U.K. tour

LONDON (R) — American pop idol Michael Jackson has recovered after an illness that forced him to cancel a London concert at the last minute Saturday and is to resume his British tour, his spokesman said Monday. Michael is extremely excited to be getting back on stage with his fans," spokesman Bob Jones said. More than 70,000 fans were left disappointed when Jackson called off the Wembley Stadium concert less than an hour before he was due on stage. Plans are under way to reschedule the show. Jones, speaking at Jackson's central London hotel surrounded by dozens of fans imploring him to "tell Michael we love him," said Jackson had been suffering from a viral infection. He said doctors treating the 33-year-old singer pronounced him fit to play his next date at Cardiff on Wednesday.

Smelling device is not to be sniffed at

TOKYO (R) — Electronics giant Sony Corp has developed a smelling machine far more effective than a human — but admits it has not scented a business opportunity yet. "The equipment we have made is about 100 times more sensitive than a human's sense of smell and we think it is possible to make it as sensitive as a dog's eventually," a company spokeswoman said Monday. The sensor can be used to detect the scent of perfumes, toiletries and food flavourings. It scored 10 out of 10 in tests to identify perfumes sold on the market, she said. "We're not yet sure when or how this equipment is going to be put to practical use but there should be a wide range of applications," she said.

Children allowed to break the law and smoke

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese high school is allowing nicotine-addicted students to break the law and smoke in an effort to make them kick the habit. Smoking under the age of 20 is illegal in Japan and a transgressor's parents, or shopkeepers found selling tobacco to anyone under 20, face a maximum fine of 4,000 yen (\$31). So far, four students at the school in Nagano in central Japan are being allowed to smoke in a teacher's room several times a day on the condition that they gradually cut down and eventually give up. The idea is that the smoky, restrictive atmosphere, as opposed to an outright ban, will help turn the children aged 14 and 15 away from cigarettes. The school started the scheme in June after they caught some students smoking. Several said they could not kick the habit. "Because the student's parents are not serious about making them stop smoking, it was a last choice for us to help students stop," a spokesman for the Togura-Kamiyama Public High School said. "It is effective and will probably be a model for teachers nationwide."